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Yisraelovich to face remand hearing today

BILL HUTMAN

TWO senior workers in Haim Haberfeld's Histadrut campaign team were interrogated by police yesterday on allegations he used Histadrut funds in his failed effort to retain the labor federation's chairmanship last year.

Police also continued to hold former Histadrut treasurer Artur Yisraelovich, 58, a close associate of both Haberfeld and another former Histadrut head under scrutiny, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar. He is to face a remand hearing in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court today.

A senior police source said Yisraelovich, who was to spend a second night in the Abu Kabir lock-up, is not cooperating with investigators.

The two campaign workers questioned were Menahem Aviram and Yitzhak Neged. Police sources emphasized that they are not suspected of wrongdoing.

Investigators hope to gather further information on the alleged funneling of Histadrut funds to the Haberfeld campaign, using falsified receipts and other illegal bookkeeping methods as a cover.

Police believe Yisraelovich, and possibly also Haberfeld, were personally behind the financial wrongdoing. They are also probing the alleged use of Histadrut funds by Haberfeld, Kessar, and other Labor Party members for their 1992 party primary campaigns.

Haberfeld and Kessar have denied any wrongdoing.

Last-ditch effort to salvage Shipyards

DAVID RUDGE and JOSE ROSENFELD

BEHIND-THE-SCENES talks were continuing last night between Histadrut officials, the SKO-Car company and government representatives in a last ditch effort to save the Israel Shipyards.

The plant seemed doomed yesterday, after the decision by the ministerial privatization committee to liquidate the shipyards immediately and sell off the plant.

The committee decided the government would refrain from continuing to fund the company's activities from the state budget, except to complete the liquidation of the shipyards. The committee directed the government to give the temporary receiver the authority to ask the court to appoint a permanent liquidator.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat emphasized that the sale of the shipyards did not succeed due to the workers' opposition and their lack of faith that the company could be run commercially, and thereby preserve their jobs.

He added that during negotiations with the workers, it became clear that they were only interested in enlarged severance payments, and not in the shipyards' continued operation.

The nearly 230 employees at the shipyards reacted to the announcement by stopping all work and once again barricading the gates of the plant.

The workers staged a 19-day sit-in at the plant throughout the negotiations with the prospective buyers, SKO-Car, to press their demands for guaranteed voluntary retirement rights at preferential rates of 180 percent.

They returned to work when the negotiations fell through last week, and the Knesset finance committee approved the sale of the plant for NIS 40.5 million to SKO-Car.

Since then the employees had been carrying out their regular

(Continued on Page 2)

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A Hamas member raises his fist during a march by 5,000 people from Gaza's al-Oman mosque to a cemetery during a symbolic funeral yesterday for the victims of the Gaza bomb blast. (Reuter)

Rabin: We had no connection to Gaza blast

Gaza police chief: 'Engineer' may have been killed

JON IMMANUEL and DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL had absolutely nothing to do with Sunday's blast at a Hamas bomb factory in the Gaza Strip that killed at least six people, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters at the Knesset yesterday.

At the same time, he said Hamas may stage a terror attack in an effort to regain its image of effectiveness in the aftermath of the blunder.

Among the items which Gaza police pulled out of the destroyed bomb factory were three small gas balloons wrapped in nails, packed in a black briefcase and ready for detonating. They also found bottles of poisonous gases imported through Ashdod, and explosive material more powerful than TNT.

Supporters of Izzadin Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas, marched in Gaza yesterday in a symbolic funeral procession to accuse Israel and the Palestinian Authority of "criminal collaboration" in causing the explosion. Palestinian Police asserted that the blast was of Izzadin Kassam's own making.

At a news conference, Palestinian Police explosives experts presented evidence from the two-room apartment in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood showing that it was used to create bombs. Emphasizing the volatility of the materials on display, the police exhibited them in a hut on the windy Gaza beachfront far from any building.

Among the materials was hexogen, an explosive used in artillery shells with a punch far more powerful than TNT. Sulphur dioxide, a poisonous gas, hydrogen peroxide, and liquids and powders of various kinds indicated that the bomb-makers had a fairly sophisticated knowledge of chemical engineering.

Palestinian police said they are investigating whether an unidentified body found at the scene of an explosion might be that of top Hamas bomb-maker Yehia Ayash, known as "The Engineer."

"The unidentified body might be Yehia Ayash," Gaza police chief Brig. Ghazi Jabali told Reuters. "We are still investigating."

Jabali said Palestinian security officials found documents in the building that said Ayash and Kheil had cooperated in preparing explosives which Hamas planned to use in Gaza against a senior PLO official.

But Jabali said the unidentified body had been badly mutilated in the blast and no positive identification was yet possible.

The sulphur dioxide, labeled "poisonous gas," could cause serious respiratory problems if released in a crowded place. But it is widely used for making bleach and may have been imported into Gaza through Ashdod with a license for that purpose or have been stolen from an Israeli factory.

Palestinian police at first accused Israelis "opposed to peace" of collaborating with Hamas, because of the Ashdod connection. Israel is still accused of being partly responsible for the acquisition by Hamas of explosive materials.

Maj. Salem Masar noted that a demolition charge which comes in a white brick called M112 was "made in the US, and in this region only Israel has it."

During the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Rabin said he is convinced that the victims died in an "industrial accident" as they were preparing bombs to be used against Israeli targets. "They brought their fate upon themselves by their desire to carry out these murderous terror activities against Israelis," he said.

"Israel has nothing to do with the explosion and the attempt all the time to finger... Israel as responsible is total nonsense."

Rabin said he is considering easing the closure by opening up a wholesale market at the Carni Junction in Gaza. Rabin said the number of trucks leaving Gaza and entering Israel has gone down from 370 to 100 a day since police discovered a truck with explosives two weeks ago near Tel Sheva.

In Gaza, onlookers gathered at the demolished building in the pro-Hamas neighborhood and read wall tributes pasted by Izzadin Kassam to "the hero leader of the Kassam brigades" – Kamal Kheil, one of those killed.

"All the people are angry with Hamas," said Fayez Alkhlot, 26, visiting from Jabalya

(Continued on Page 2)

Baz: Solution to NPT dispute closer

Moussa: Egypt won't budge

DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER

THERE appear to be differences in the top levels of the Egyptian government over whether an agreement on the nuclear issue can be reached with Israel.

The two countries are on their way to resolving their differences on the issue, Israel Television showed Egyptian national security adviser Osama Baz telling reporters in Washington yesterday, as President Hosni Mubarak was meeting with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"We are currently engaged in talks, but would like these talks to be more organized, more formal and official, and I believe that we can bridge the gap between the two countries in the coming two weeks," Baz said.

But Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, said Israel's position on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) is unacceptable.

He said Cairo is not interested in extricating itself from the present stalemate over Israel's refusal to sign the NPT.

"The matter is very serious. It is not a matter of face-saving or compromises or a window just to get Egypt or any other country out of a certain situation that they want to get out of," he said.

Moussa also rejected Israel's position that Jerusalem would enter regional talks on denuclearization only two years after signing peace treaties with all foes in the region, including Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

This is "not a language of people discussing a serious issue," he said. Moussa would not state what Egypt's response would be if Israel agreed to Cairo's terms. But he indicated it would be "a very major step."

The interview will run at length in tomorrow's *Post*.

Mubarak's talks with US officials are expected to be dominated by disagreements over the NPT.

Mubarak met Secretary of State Warren Christopher and had meetings scheduled with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and members of Congress. He is due to see President Bill Clinton tomorrow.

The administration is committed to preserving Egypt's $2 billion annual aid package, the State Department said yesterday.

Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said the administration "will continue to very strongly press the case for aid to Egypt with the Congress," because it wants to help meet "the economic reform goals that the Egyptians themselves have indicated they would like to take."

The comments came following the meeting between Mubarak and Christopher.

According to both US and Israeli sources, Baz and Moussa have been vying for Mubarak's ear on what Egypt's approach toward the NPT should be. In recent weeks, Baz has become the more dominant player and has prevailed upon Mubarak to adopt a moderate course and distance himself from the more truculent approach that Moussa has taken in the last few months, they said.

When Christopher visited Cairo last month, US officials took Baz aside, and informed him that the tough position taken by Moussa only plays into the hands of those Republicans in Congress who want to cut aid to Egypt, US sources said. This approach was reinforced by a visiting delegation of the US Council on Foreign Relations, which told Mubarak that the current course is jeopardizing US assistance.

Mubarak now realizes how badly Moussa miscalculated, when he thought the US would pressure Israel to sign the NPT, the sources said.

Finally, Israel has also sought to bring Baz into the NPT picture, and subsequently has been more optimistic that a mutually agreed upon formula could found that would end the impasse.

Alleged Holocaust soap pulled from auction block after protest

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

A TEL Aviv auction house, which is offering a bar of soap allegedly made from the bodies of Holocaust victims, removed the item from its catalog yesterday after coming under heavy public pressure to cancel the sale.

The sale was to have taken place on April 25, two days before Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

The soap appeared in the auction catalog of Zodiak Stamp, which was asking an opening bid of $300.

The soap, according to Holocaust experts as well as Yad Vashem, could not have been made from Jewish fat as there has never been any documentation that the Nazis ever made such soap.

According to owner Moshe Mardik, the item is an old box containing a small block of a grey substance. He said he obtained the soap from the son of a Holocaust survivor, who said his father brought it with him to Palestine after he was liberated from Buchenwald.

Moshe Yahalom, of Tel Aviv, confirmed that he had offered the soap and other items for auction.

"My father, who went through hell, brought it with him from Buchenwald," said Yahalom, who added that he is destitute after serving a jail sentence for what he termed "trumped-up charges of rape."

He said he had put up all his possessions for sale, including death certificates of Jews stamped by the SS and other Holocaust documents.

Professor Yehuda Bauer, chairman of the Vidal Sassoon Center for the Study of Antisemitism at the Hebrew University, said "someone is misusing people's fears and obsessions and presenting things that we know today didn't happen. The main point is that enough horrible things happened, and it is not really necessary to invent others."

He said there was "plenty of evidence that the Nazis taunted their Jewish victims with this, but every SS officer in Auschwitz knew this wasn't going on."

Yad Vashem director Avner Shalev said yesterday that the soap will be tested for authenticity, and that if it found to be authentic Yad Vashem will put it in storage.

Mardik said that among those who had asked him to cancel the sale was Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who approached him through a third party. Lau reported wants to return the soap and the box to its original owner so that it can be given a proper burial.

Mardik said that he intends to go ahead with the sale of other Holocaust-related items – yellow badges at an opening price of $100 to $200, and dog-tags from concentration camp inmates at $150 to $200.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo said that the sale is illegal and he will attempt to prevent its taking place.

The sale is a disgrace and displays a shocking lack of sensitivity, MK Dov Shilansky (Likud) said in an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda yesterday.

"In my worst nightmares, I never imagined a placard, advertising soap made from the bodies of Holocaust victims, would be put up [for sale] in the Jewish state," he said.

Evelyn Gordon and Elli Wohlgelernter contributed to this report.

Levy considers leaving Likud

SARAH HONIG

MK David Levy yesterday threatened that he might quit the Likud if his demands are not met. He promised a decision after Pessah.

The political fireworks promised by Levy's lieutenants did not materialize. Levy basically repeated what he has said before.

The only thing new to come out of the Tel Aviv meeting of his faction was an apparent deadline.

One of those present admitted that apart from a factional pep talk, the event was a "mountain which produced a molehill."

Levy set the end of Pessah as the deadline for agreement between himself and the party leadership about a primary system for the selection of Knesset candidates. Levy wants a system that would insure for his faction a third of the Likud's next list. He argues that this is his due since he won 26 percent of the total in the 1993 leadership primary, which he lost to Binyamin Netanyahu.

Another demand is that he be named the Likud's No.2.

Throughout the evening, Levy told his followers that he is "only seeking justice, only what is our due. We don't want what we don't deserve, what isn't coming to us. But we don't want to be deprived of what is ours by right either. We don't want to be crushed and wiped out – and that is our right. We want true unity and if this unity is not achieved, then many people will not regard themselves as part of this party.

"We will reconvene after Pessah and evaluate the situation once more. We will examine where we stand and how far negotiations about the primary system have gone. After we review things, we will make decisions," he stated.

Levy was addressing an audience made up mainly of supporters brought over from development towns. There were an estimated 1,000 of them, crammed into a small hall. Some found seats around round tables and others had to stand. There were some local authority heads, but no other Likud MKs.

In an effort to present himself as committed to Likud unity, Levy spent a major portion of his address in attacking the Labor government. There were no outbursts at Netanyahu, except for a few minor jibes, such as: "What is the point in party decisions if that one [Netanyahu] does not abide by them?"

Levy was the sole speaker at the gathering he called ostensibly to toast the coming Pessah holiday. Preceded by much media hype, it was Levy's first major appearance at a party function since he was defeated by Netanyahu.

Netanyahu had decided not to comment, and neither did anyone close to him. The idea is to minimize Levy's gathering by lack of attention.

Netanyahu is reported unwilling to in effect reserve slots for Levy's people, arguing that this would be tantamount to restoring factionalism in the Likud, something he has vowed not to allow.

Players, owners agree – Let's play ball!

CHICAGO (Reuter) – Major League Baseball owners announced on Sunday that a shortened 144-game season would begin on April 26 using regular players, who had declared an end to their 232-day-old strike two days earlier.

The owners, who could have decided to lock out the regular players and suspend the season or use replacements, also pledged to work with players to prevent a repetition of the most serious labour disruption in baseball's history.

"The players are back. The game is back and we are very happy about that," said acting commissioner Bud Selig, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers.

Full story, Page 10

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Israel drops demand that Syria cut its army

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

ISRAEL is no longer demanding that Syria cut its standing army as part of a peace agreement, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He also indicated that Israeli and Syrian negotiators in Washington are deadlocked on the principles that would underlie security arrangements between the two countries.

Syria also said the peace talks are still faltering.

"The peace process which began over three years ago is now faltering and might collapse because Israel was, and still is, putting obstacles in the way of the process," Abdullah Ahmar, assistant secretary-general of the ruling Ba'ath Party, said.

Speaking at the opening of an Arab center for strategic studies in Damascus, Ahmar ruled out any Syrian concessions, especially on full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Their remarks ran counter to the optimistic view of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who said on Sunday he was somewhat encouraged by the resumed Syrian-Israeli talks.

Rabin also confirmed that US peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross will arrive on Thursday. Ross, who will also visit Damascus, is expected to set up talks between senior military officials on concrete security arrangements.

According to an official who briefed reporters after the meeting, Rabin told MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) that "you set a precedent," alluding to the peace treaty with Egypt which does not include a cut in the Egyptian standing army. "You did not do this at Camp David, so stop the demagoguery," Rabin said.

Last October, Rabin promised the Knesset that mutual force cuts would be part of any peace with Syria.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said that Syria has 12 permanent divisions, while Israel has three. Israel holds an advantage in reserves.

Whenever Israel raised the possibility of cutting Syrian conventional forces, it was always met with a rejoinder that Israel should first cut its air force and reputed nuclear capability. This stalemate has led Rabin to believe that cutting the Syrian standing army will not prove to be feasible.

Regarding the current talks between Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich and Walid Mualem, Rabin said the two sides have not resolved the impasse over Syria's insistence that the basis for security arrangements between the two countries be overall "equality."

Sources say Syria no longer insists on "symmetry," realizing that Israel may have special needs when it comes to the establishment of limited forces zones. However, if Israel is to receive special consideration in one sphere, Damascus wants an advantage in another, and therefore insists upon aggregate equality. Israel, however, does not accept this, and prefers the vague notion of "mutual" security arrangements.

On a related point, Rabin said Syria is indispensable in any effort to disarm Hizbullah.

Peace process meant to prevent war, not stop terror – Peres

EVELYN GORDON

THE peace process was not meant to eliminate terrorism, but to prevent war and preserve the "moral character" of the Jewish people, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

Peres was responding to two no-confidence motions – one by the Likud and Moledet and one by Tsomet and the NRP – on the government's alleged political and economic failures.

The no-confidence motions were defeated easily, 58-46, even though the two Shas MKs present voted with the opposition.

"The purpose of the peace process was so that there wouldn't be a war, and so that Israel would be able to preserve her moral character, her Jewish tradition," Peres said.

"The peace plan is not just a plan to combat terror. There was terror even without peace, and in Lebanon even more people have died," he said.

"We will make Israel an island of peace, of truth, of the moral heritage of the Jewish people," he added later. "The Jewish people never believed in might, but in spirit. But we also have the might to maintain the spirit."

Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav and Tsomet chairman Rafael Eitan, who presented the motions for their parties, listed a long series of gripes against the government: the rise in terror, the calls for the evacuation of Hebron, rising inflation, the growing trade deficit and the increased number of families under the poverty line.

"You have continued to stop up your ears and close your eyes," Katsav charged. "Scarcely a week has passed in which the government did not give us a good reason for proposing no-confidence."

Peres responded with a list of the government's accomplishments – lower unemployment, relations with Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, better treatment at the United Nations.

He also listed the failings of previous Likud governments, such as hyperinflation, the bank shares collapse and the Lebanon War.

"I think the Oslo agreement is a historic, courageous and real agreement – because you do not, never did and never will have any plan for how to solve the problem in Gaza," Peres said.

"We will solve the Palestinian problem, because otherwise, we will have Yugoslavia and Bosnia here."

Surprise tactic delays vote on bill aiding PA

EVELYN GORDON

A BILL to enable tax money to be transferred to the Palestinian Authority has been deferred until after the Pessah recess, after Tsomet and the National Religious Party asked that the vote be turned into a no-confidence motion.

The move was an embarrassment for the government, which had wanted to ram the bill through all three readings this week to ease the PA's poor financial situation. Yesterday was supposed to have been the first reading.

However, Knesset regulations forbid no-confidence votes to take place during a recess, and this is the last week of the winter session. Thus, the bill will not pass its first reading until May.

Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) said the government was to blame for the foul-up. Had it bothered to bring the bill two weeks earlier, she said, the opposition's delaying tactics would not have been able to prevent its passage before the recess.

The bill contains a collection of amendments needed to enable the PA to assume authority in the fields of health, welfare, education, and tourism throughout Judea and Samaria. The most important of these authorizes the government to transfer 75 percent of the income taxes collected from Palestinians working in Israel to the PA – something which Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair has ruled cannot be done until the law is passed. The bill also enables the transfer of value-added tax monies to the PA.

The most surprising moment of the debate came when David Mena (Likud) said he would support the bill. "I am against the establishment of a Palestinian state," he said. "But I am for autonomy. And autonomy means giving [the Palestinians] authority in areas [such as these]."

Gideon Patt (Likud), however, expressed the more traditional opposition line, saying the bill would give legitimacy to the Oslo accord. Tsomet and the NRP agreed.

PLO will license stolen cars in Gaza

THE Palestinian Authority has given drivers of stolen cars in the Gaza Strip until April 8 to register their vehicles or have them confiscated.

Police chief Brig.-Gen. Ghazi al-Jabali said some 25,000 Gazans, among them political and security officials, are driving stolen vehicles. Authorities have handed out some 1,500 temporary licenses for such cars.

"We will start collecting and hunting down stolen cars if they are not licensed or don't have a temporary pass before April 8," Jabali told Reuters. He said the cars would be licensed temporarily and the political leadership would decide on the ultimate fate of the cars. The $32 license will be good for three months, said a Palestinian source.

One Palestinian involved in car thefts told Reuters there was an Israeli-Palestinian car-stealing mafia. Israelis bring the cars to the border crossing, where the plates are either changed or painted, and the cars are then sold in the Gaza Strip at very low prices, he said. (Reuter)

BLAST

(Continued from Page 1)

refugee camp. They did not believe Hamas claims of Israeli involvement, but many agreed that Kheil was a hero.

"He was making the bomb not to destroy the apartment, but against Israel. Unfortunately he mixed the wrong chemicals," said Wael Abukas, a resident of the street.

Jabali called on Gazans to report any suspicion of bomb-making factories in their neighborhoods. Palestinian police are investigating whether people in the neighborhood knew of Kheil's activities.

In an apartment next door, badly damaged in the blast, a member of the Abu Naji family said he had seen Kheil, the most wanted Hamas activist in Gaza, visit next door. He said he had nothing to do with Hamas himself.

On a wall of the apartment was a picture of Eymad Akel, Kheil's predecessor who was shot dead by Israeli undercover troops in November 1993.

Another branch of the Abu Naji family lives upstairs, and has pictures of PLO leader Yasser Arafat on the wall. They too were angry about the factory just one meter away. The explosion broke their windows, cracked the walls, and left objects strewn all over the floor.

An 18-month-old toddler emerged from a bedroom pointing a plastic black rifle. His name was Eymad, but it had no connection to the slain Kassam leader, they said.

Lid kept on Kach as Abed Rabbo attends meet in Jerusalem

A forum in Jerusalem last night attended by Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo passed peacefully despite protests by Kach.

Also attending was Tekoa Rabbi Menahem Froman.

The Beit Agron site was daubed with slogans signed by Kach: "Death to PLO Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo" and "Froman the Traitor." Kach activist Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was in the building before the gathering, was arrested. Police kept Kach members from breaking into the hall

"The Gaza model cannot be applied in Tulkarm and Kalkilya, because we cannot accept the idea of the terrorist organizations having as much freedom there as they have in Gaza," Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said at the International Center for Peace gathering. (Itim)

Drive slower!
Drive with care!

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev (right) meets with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday, the final day of his four-day visit. (Isaac Harari)

2 SLA men wounded in heavy fighting

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY fighting was reported inside the security zone last night after a Hizbullah attack on a South Lebanese Army position in which two SLA soldiers were wounded.

According to reports from the region, Hizbullah gunmen attacked the position in the Soujud region, in the zone's eastern sector, with anti-tank missiles, mortars and machine gun fire.

One of the soldiers was said to have suffered moderate wounds and the other sustained light wounds.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire with the support of IAF helicopter gunships and artillery.

Earlier, Hizbullah fired several mortar rounds at SLA and IDF positions in the Barasheet region, as well as in the eastern sector.

Last night's exchanges were the heaviest since the fierce fighting in which an IDF soldier was killed at the end of last week and the Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee in which a Nahariya teenager was killed and more than a dozen people were wounded.

The rocket attacks were sparked by the killing of a regional Hizbullah commander, Roda Yassin, in an IAF helicopter gunship attack.

The fighting last night was seen as a statement by Hizbullah that it intended to continue to attack IDF and SLA targets in the zone and was not fazed by any temporary setbacks.

A leading Hizbullah official, Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, was quoted in Lebanese newspapers yesterday as saying that the organization's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had "not yet avenged the blood of our martyrs."

"The enemy still hasn't seen the full strength of the resistance," Kaouk was quoted as saying. Similar comments were made by another official, Hussein Khalil, in an interview with the *Al-Hiyat* Arabic daily.

Khalil accused Israel of violating the Operation Accountability understandings by imposing a naval blockade on Lebanese ports and fishing grounds and carrying out other "acts of aggression" against the civilian population.

"If Israel shells our villages, we will shell theirs. We will deal with the Zionist enemy in the same way it deals with us," he was quoted as saying.

There were reports in the press yesterday that members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine had been involved in the fighting on Friday when IDF troops carried out a wide-ranging operation north of the zone, in the central and eastern sectors. The press reports said one Habash activist was still missing from the clashes and it was feared he may have been captured.

Meanwhile, the forum of heads of confrontation line settlements is to meet in Nahariya today to press for additional funding for development and municipal projects following Friday's rocket attacks.

Binyamin council reacts with warning to withdrawal rumor

HERB KEINON

THE Binyamin Regional Council plenum, representing some 31 settlements in the region, adopted a resolution late Sunday night saying that if the IDF withdraws from the region, settlers will be called upon to act on the principle that "killing in self-defense is permissible."

Council head Pinhas Wallerstein said a special session of the plenum was called as a result of rumors that the IDF is considering a withdrawal from Ramallah in the near future.

The adopted resolution read, "If God forbid the IDF withdraw from the roads and leaves us under armed forces that are not subject to Israeli law or in conjunction with these forces, from the standpoint of saving an endangered life we will be forced to direct the residents to honor the rule, 'If anyone comes to kill you, kill them first.' "

Wallerstein would not spell out what this means, saying "I don't want to end up in jail." He said only that any violence would not be aimed at the IDF, which he said is doing everything in its power to secure the Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

OC Central Command Mag.-Gen. Ilan Biran attended the meeting, but only after the plenum passed its resolution. Wallerstein stressed that the settler's anger is not directed at the IDF, but rather at the political echelon that he says is willing to "let us be killed."

Wallerstein said that if the IDF withdraws, the Palestinian Police taking its place will undoubtebly want to kill the settlers. In such a scenario, he said, the Jewish residents in the area are entitled to defend themselves.

Wallerstein said the resolution was carefully worded to read that these directives will be given only if the IDF withdraws from the region and does not leave any bypass roads under exclusive IDF control to the settlements. But, he said, at the rate the bypass roads in the region are being constructed, they will not be ready for use for another two years.

SHIPYARDS

(Continued from Page 1)

duties, until the announcement of the liquidation decision which took them back to the barricades.

The atmosphere among the workers yesterday ranged from sadness and a sense of helplessness for a situation which they helped create, to cautious optimism that something might yet be salvaged.

There were others, however, who declared that it would be better for them if the plant was liquidated and sold and they would get their full severance pay. "We have been working under this threat for nine years, so they might just as well go ahead and get it over with," said one of the workers.

Histadrut chairman in Haifa Baruch Zaltz held an emergency meeting with shipyards works committee members. After lengthy and heated discussions, it was decided that Zaltz should try one last time to reach an agreement with the potential buyers and the government that would save the yards and the workers' jobs.

After further discussions, the workers themselves agreed to remove the barricades and reopen the gates, although they did not resume work.

Histadrut officials in Haifa said the talks would probably continue all day today. Zaltz himself said that if an agreement could be reached that would satisfy all the parties, he was hopeful that the ministerial privatization committee would rescind its decision to liquidate the shipyards.

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Kozyrev doesn't answer questions about visit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev ended his four-day trip to Israel by refusing to answer questions about the substance of his visit.

Kozyrev decided not to talk to the press at the end of his meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday. Also rather irksome to Israeli officials was the fact that he met Peres a day late, suddenly canceled other meetings with Israeli officials, and then sent a deputy to visit the Orient House in eastern Jerusalem.

Upon arrival here on Friday, he said he was bringing "new ideas" about how to advance the peace process, but publicly gave no details.

At a dinner held in his honor on Saturday night, Kozyrev said Russia's attitude to the Middle East was "balanced" and said his country had "tremendous sympathy" for Israel but also had longstanding ties with Arab states.

Israeli officials and Kozyrev were at loggerheads over Moscow's plan to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran.

At the end of his meeting with Peres, both sides apparently agreed to have further discussion on the pension rights of Russian immigrants living here.

Israel also agreed in principle to Russian claims to properties in Jerusalem and Galilee that once belonged to the Czars.

ARRIVALS

Governor and Mrs. Jim Edgar of Illinois and Mr. Rudolph Tessler, to attend the dedication of The Governor Jim & Mrs. Brenda Edgar Institute of Environmental Studies of the Tessler School of Nursing, Sanz Medical Center.

Mr. Tessler will also attend the 14th Annual Graduation Ceremony of the Tessler School of Nursing, Sanz Medical Center – Laniado Hospital.

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Druse woman refused passport – she didn't speak Hebrew

DAVID RUDGE

THE Interior Ministry pledged yesterday that a Druse woman, four of whose sons are serving in the security forces, would receive Israeli citizenship and a passport after her application was originally refused because she did not speak Hebrew.

The somewhat bizarre story came to light when Mohammed Abu Hiya and his wife Nassima, from Beit Jann on Mt. Meron in the Galilee, applied for passports at the Interior Ministry's offices in Acre.

Hiya, who himself served for nearly 30 years in the Border Police, said he was amazed when his wife's application was turned down, despite their marital status and the fact that four of their nine children were currently serving in the IDF and Border Police.

"The reason we were given was that my wife had to know Hebrew in order to receive citizenship, and only then could she get a passport," Abu Hiya told reporters yesterday.

"The fact is that I received my passport, but my wife wasn't sent one. I feel as if I'm a person without rights, if they treat me, an Israeli citizen, in such a way," said Abu Hiya. He told reporters they had applied for the passports so that they could visit Jordan and travel.

Druse MK Assad Assad said yesterday that the case of the Beit Jann family was only the tip of the iceberg, and that other Druse had been similarly discriminated against.

He told reporters of another case of a Druse officer who had been wounded in Lebanon, but who was not entitled to a passport because his parents had been born in Syria.

Interior Ministry spokesperson Tova Ellinson said that in the case of the Beit Jann couple, the wife had also not been born in Israel proper.

"The problem was that she did not have citizenship, even though she married somebody from here. One of the conditions in the law of citizenship includes knowledge of the (Hebrew) language," said Ellinson.

"However, new instructions were issued several weeks ago that if somebody is married to an Israeli citizen and their children serve or have served in the army, this condition (knowledge of Hebrew) does not have to be applied.

The matter is being dealt with and she will receive citizenship and afterwards a passport. This will also apply to people in similar positions," she added.

Judy Carr of Toronto, an activist on behalf of Syrian Jewry *who has helped thousands get out of Syria but remained silent for 23 years* about her work, shakes hands with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday at a reception at the Foreign Ministry, as the former chief rabbi of the Syrian Jewish community, Rabbi Avraham Hamra looks on. (Brian Hendler)

Ben-Porat will look at export deals done by hospitals

EVELYN GORDON

STATE Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said yesterday that she will consider investigating the export deals made by hospitals, and possibly the specific case of former Health Ministry director-general Mordechai Shani.

Ben-Porat was responding to two requests by MK Yoram Lass (Labor).

Shani was recently removed from his post as director-general at the demand of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, because Shani had set up a private company to sell medical services to Hungary while he was head of Sheba Hospital – thereby creating a potential conflict of interest – without getting the necessary approval from the Civil Service Commission.

Lass said Ben-Porat should investigate whether former health minister Ehud Olmert did not bear some responsibility for Shani's actions, since he gave tacit consent. Olmert's successors – Haim Ramon and Ephraim Sneh – also failed to take action on the matter, he added.

Lass also asked Ben-Porat to investigate export deals made by hospitals in general. These deals, he said, sometimes involve exaggeratedly high fees, which raise ethical questions.

Ben-Porat agreed that "the issue was worthy of attention," and said she would consider investigating it. She did not specify whether she referred to both of Lass's complaints or only to the general issue of such export deals Sneh strongly urged that Ben-Porat not investigate the Shani affair, saying the issue had already been exhausted.

Gov't undecided on anti-poverty bill

EVELYN GORDON

THE government is in a quandary over what to do with its supplementary anti-poverty bill, after the Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday refused to cut money from it.

The committee unanimously approved the bill in its uncut form, and chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) had planned to bring it to the plenum for its final reading either today or tomorrow.

However, the government said it does not have money for the uncut version. Originally, it had threatened to withdraw the bill, but later last night said that instead, it would merely delay it, while presenting the subject to the Labor and Meretz Knesset factions to decide upon.

The bill, which was sponsored by the government, was originally supposed to cost NIS120 million, of which NIS40m. was to come from requiring working pensioners to pay national insurance fees.

However, the government later decided this was politically unfeasible, and therefore asked the committee to cut NIS40m. from the bill.

The committee, however, insisted that the bill be approved in its original version.

Katz said it was unconscionable that the government could not find an extra NIS40m. for anti-poverty programs, but was budgeting NIS1.68 billion to reduce employers' parallel tax payments.

"They cannot come and say: 'We're giving NIS1.68b. to employers, but to save 10,000 poor families from poverty, [we have] nothing,' " he said.

Labor Ministry officials, however, charged that Katz was simply trying to garner publicity with an eye towards the upcoming Labor primaries.

Among some of the changes the original program would have made would have been the increasing of national insurance payments to 99,650 families, thereby raising some 10,390 families above the poverty line.

Parents find no place to bury non-Jewish son

HAIM SHAPIRO

ALTHOUGH the Religious Affairs Ministry and Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim agreed two weeks ago to provide burial for those who can not be buried in Jewish cemeteries, the decision has not helped the parents of Gyorgy Yafrilsky, 14, who died on Shabbat.

After the parents, donated his lungs, kidneys, and corneas, they found they were unable to find a burial place, since his mother is not Jewish.

Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Ofer Amar said the ministry would immediately deal with the burial, and that Gyorgy would apparently be buried in one of the kibbutzim. He said the ministry had only learned of the case from the media yesterday.

Amar said that anyone with such a problem should contact Zelig Braverman, director of the burial department.

However, Yossi Sperber, director of Yossi Ambulance, a private firm in Haifa to whom the family had turned, said that he had been in contact with the ministry on Sunday, and that Braverman had refused to deal with the matter.

Amar also admitted that development work for the non-sectarian burial area at Kiryat Anavim, near Jerusalem, would only begin after Independence Day, since the cemetery also has a military section and ceremonies are held there on Memorial Day.

Meanwhile, the case has engendered considerable reaction. Science Minister Shulamit Aloni called for the establishment of alternative cemeteries in every town in the country.

"This is racism; it's a disgrace," she said. "If the haredim want to buried separately, let them. There must be places where those who are halachicly Jewish but aren't interested in the services of a *hevra kadisha* can be buried. That's what the law says."

Anat Galili, spokesperson for the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center, said the ministry is clearly responsible for the family's distress. She said it is not just responsible for Jews, but also for Moslems, Christians, and the non-religious.

Ran Harody, director of Menuha Nehona, the society established to provide burial for those who want a non-Orthodox funeral, said that the High Court of Justice ruled in May 1992 that it the government is obliged to provide alternative burial sites and that his organization should run them.

So far, he said, the government had approved the establishment of such cemeteries in Haifa and Beersheba, and also said that at soon as a site becomes available in the Jerusalem area, it should be handed over to Menuha Nehona. For that reason, he said, his organization had requested that it run the Kiryat Anavim site.

The kibbutzim are not responsible for for burying the country's dead, Harody said. In two recent cases, he said, Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk and Kibbutz Barkai had volunteered to bury immigrants who were not Jewish according to Halacha, but they do not have the facilities to absorb all immigrants who could not be buried in Jewish cemeteries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Witness: Deri paid 'debt' with council job

A witness in the Aryeh Deri trial testified yesterday that the former interior minister appointed Moshe Weinberg acting head of the Lahavim local council because of a "debt" he owed him, even though Weinberg had no experience in municipal affairs, as the prosecution charges.

Shraga Kamin, a Lahavim resident appointed to the council by Weinberg, said Weinberg confirmed this to him in a conversation." *Itim*

Soldier killed in freak accident

Cpl. Rahel Yerushalmi, 18, was killed yesterday when the soccer goal at her Jordan Valley base, on which she was exercising, overturned. She will be buried today at Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

Opposition protests Channel 2 council

The opposition parties are threatening to take legal action unless they are fairly represented on Channel 2's governing council.

In a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) said the list of candidates prepared by Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet represents "an unacceptable attempt to force the governing coalition's mastery on Channel 2, with the goal of suppressing free expression."

BGU senior staff launches sanctions

Senior academic staff at Ben-Gurion University are imposing work sanctions today and tomorrow to protest inequality between their retirement conditions and those of their colleagues at Hebrew University. The staff members will not give lectures, or participate in lab work or exercises.

The sanctions by the senior staff comes only a few days after junior staff at the institution ended a four-week strike.

The senior staff works committee warned yesterday that the sanctions are just another stage before the opening of an ongoing strike to win their demands. *Amir Rozenblit*

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

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Tamir Cohen (Jacobson)

Russia rejects US appeal on Iran nuclear deal

CHARLES ALDINGER
MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday rejected a personal appeal from US Defense Secretary William Perry to cancel a planned sale of nuclear reactors to Iran, and again warned NATO against quick expansion into Eastern Europe.

"The Russian government did not agree to change their position to proceed with that sale," Perry told a news conference after talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

He said Russia had acknowledged US concern that Iran might use spent reactor fuel and technology from the $1 billion sale to develop nuclear arms, and said he disagreed with Chernomyrdin that tight controls could prevent this.

"I told him I did not share that confidence," Perry said, adding that US and Russian officials would continue discussions in the coming weeks, including possible safeguards on spent fuel which can be enriched for nuclear arms.

"Our position continues to be that we do not want Russia to sell those reactors to Iran," Perry said.

The rejection was a bitter pill for Washington and was worsened by two other developments in Moscow yesterday:

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said after meeting Perry that Moscow might resort to "counter measures", including refusal to abide by the 1990 treaty on conventional forces in Europe, if NATO expanded quickly into former Soviet bloc states.

Itar-Tass news agency quoted Vladimir Shumeiko, chairman of the upper house of Russia's Parliament, as telling Perry that parliament was unlikely to ratify the START-2 strategic arms reduction treaty quickly because of friction with NATO.

The developments came as Perry signed deals providing $40 million more in US aid to help Russia continue to destroy its own nuclear weapons under existing agreements.

"For NATO to expand even one more member requires the unanimous decision of 16 nations with 16 parliaments," said Perry when asked about Grachev's warning. "The possibility of that action happening quickly is, I think, remote."

Russia says membership of such former Soviet bloc states as Poland, the Czech Republic and others will isolate Moscow from its neighbors. "Countermeasures could be taken," Grachev said.

"We would not abide by the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty. And we might create necessary military groups in the most threatening directions and set up closer cooperation with other CIS countries."

The 1990 CFE treaty places tight controls on numbers and placement of troops and armor in Europe.

Grachev said he and Perry had reached "good mutual understanding" on several issues. He had given Perry information about Chechnya, where Russian troops have intervened violently to crush a three-year independence bid.

Perry said he was satisfied at Russian progress towards destroying chemical arms but was worried about the biological weapons program. He said Grachev had offered to allow direct inspection by Western experts to alleviate Pentagon concern.

Perry and Grachev also told reporters that they had agreed to hold joint US-Russian military peacekeeping exercises in the United States late this summer or in the autumn. The first such exercises were held last year in Russia.

Perry, on a tour of four former Soviet republics, has said the Iran deal should not torpedo US aid to convert Russia's arms industry to produce consumer goods.

Sudan offers armed Islamists a rare chance to meet

KHARTOUM (Reuter) – A worldwide Islamist meeting in Sudan that resolved to support armed struggle against Israel offered Moslem radicals and militants a rare chance to coordinate strategy, delegates and diplomats said.

After three days of conference hall rhetoric and a final session Sunday which threw together resolutions barely changed from the last meeting in 1993, delegates said the main aim of attending was the opportunity for networking with sympathetic groups.

Western diplomats following the meeting said they were more interested to know what practical links might have been forged between militants waging campaigns of violence across the Arab and Islamic world than in the final resolution.

Delegates from more than 80 countries included figures from Hizbullah, Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Algerian Islamists from an-Nahda and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) as well as Egypt's fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood.

"We are worried about what sort of meetings might have been going on on the sidelines," one Western diplomat said.

Guatemalan soldiers prepare for a guard of honor while waiting for the arrival of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at Guatemala City airport. The UN head arrived in Guatemala to discuss ending the 34-year civil war. (AP)

Officials: In-flight explosion caused Tarom Airbus crash

BUCHAREST (AP) – An in-flight explosion caused the crash of a Romanian airliner that killed all 60 people aboard, an expert examining the remains of the victims said yesterday.

The French Embassy said yesterday a caller had claimed responsibility for Friday's crash, and a bomb scare forced a Tarom airlines plane bound for Paris into an emergency landing.

An official commission investigating the crash declined to theorize on its causes. But Dr. Vladimir Belis, head of Bucharest's Forensic Institute, which is working on identifying the victims, said he was certain of an in-air explosion.

"My opinion ... is that the deaths have occurred within seconds while the plane was still in the air," Belis said. "The body parts were partially burned, and the way they looked was very specific to an explosion."

Investigators analyzed the flight data recorders yesterday to help them determine why the Tarom Airbus A-310 nose-dived shortly after taking off for Brussels. Witnesses said the plane exploded shortly before it went down just north of the airport.

"It was an explosion," Ovidiu Traichoiu, director of Bucharest's Otopeni airport, said in a telephone interview. "But we don't know whether it was a bomb or a technical fault."

The airport closed for about four hours yesterday morning after an anonymous caller said a bomb was aboard a plane flying toward Paris, national radio quoted airport chief Constantin Tudose as saying. The plane made an emergency landing in Timisoara, in western Romania.

Iraqi lawyer sees jailed Americans over appeal

BAGHDAD (Reuter) – An Iraqi lawyer yesterday met the two Americans jailed in Iraq for illegally crossing the border for an appeal against their eight-year sentences. He said he had gathered information that may change the court verdict.

Lawyer Khaled Jarjees spent eight hours with David Daliberti, 41, of Jacksonville, Florida, and William Barloon, 39, of New Hampton, Iowa.

They were sentenced last month to eight years in prison for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait on March 13.

Jarjees said he needed one week and another meeting with the two men before seeking the appeal.

He said he obtained the files of the two men and had "found new points that will help to change the course of the lawsuit.

"They are in good shape and receive good treatment from prison authorities," he said.

Jarjees has defended other Westerners jailed in Iraq for similar offenses, among them American oilman Kenneth Beaty who served 205 days of an eight-year term, but has lost all such appeals.

Beaty was eventually pardoned by President Saddam Hussein.

Daliberti and Barloon are being held in Abu Ghraib prison 30 km west of Baghdad. The United States has said they are civilian aircraft mechanics and has demanded their release.

Jarjees says he is member of the British bar and a graduate of a British university. His office in Baghdad provides legal advice to several Western embassies in the Iraqi capital.

Major meets US leaders, plays down reports of rift

PAUL MYLREA
WASHINGTON

BRITISH Prime Minister John Major began two days of talks with US leaders yesterday, playing down reports of a rift between the two old allies over Northern Ireland and other foreign policy issues.

After talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Major dismissed suggestions the "special relationship" between Washington and London was in decline, and Christopher said a row over Northern Ireland policy was "ancient history."

Major said that although there had been occasional spats, the talks with Christopher had confirmed there were "a wide range of issues where there's very substantial agreement."

He added: "I have never referred to it as a 'special relationship.' There is a relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States of shared interests."

Major, who will meet President Bill Clinton today, told reporters his talks with Christopher took in Iraq and the enlargement of NATO and Bosnia, over which US and British policy has also differed.

British officials said Christopher had been supportive of Britain's position in the delicate Northern Ireland peace process – the cause of last month's Major-Clinton row.

Major was so enraged at Clinton's decision to award an unrestricted visa to Gerry Adams, head of the Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Fein, that he took five days to respond to a telephone call from the US president.

Major used a brief news conference after his talks with Christopher at the British embassy to call on Adams to enter into constructive discussions on scrapping the IRA's weapons, a major sticking point in the peace process.

Christopher took pains to show the two countries bore no hard feelings, saying the one hour of talks with Major had shown "a high degree of congruence on our policy." He added: "The issue that arose a few weeks ago is now ancient history and we're pulling together."

WORLD BRIEFS

UN asks for NATO monitoring in Bosnia

UN peacekeepers requested NATO reconnaissance flights over northwestern Bosnia yesterday after repeated Serb rebel shelling of a UN-protected safe area.

But UN sources said no planes were sent because a communications mix-up delayed NATO's response.

The attacks continued. Five shells landed in Bihac at midday, including one that slightly wounded a Dutch peacekeeper, said UN military observers. *AP*

SA opposition party could quit unity gov't

South Africa's main black opposition party is likely to leave the Constitutional Assembly within days and could quit the government after a congress in July, a senior member said yesterday.

Prisons Minister Sipo Mzimela, a member of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party in the cabinet, said only a last-minute concession by President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress could rescue the country's post-apartheid unity. *Reuter*

Suspected NY bombers claim being framed

Six alleged Moslem extremists whom police link to defendants in the World Trade Center bombing claim officials planted weapons and explosives in the apartment where they were arrested over the weekend.

Police said the six, all from Arab countries, were arrested early Sunday in Kalookan City and will be charged with illegal weapons possession. Prosecutors recommended they be held without bail.

The group allegedly aided Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the 1993 New York bombing, in a plot to kill Pope John Paul II and blow up American airliners over the Pacific. *AP*

Yeltsin okays law for AIDS tests on foreigners

President Boris Yeltsin yesterday signed into law a controversial bill that imposes mandatory AIDS tests for foreigners, prisoners and refugees.

AIDS activists have criticized the measure, saying it violates human rights and Russia's obligations under international agreements.

The new law introduces mandatory AIDS testing for foreigners seeking to stay in Russia longer than three months and for refugees, Russian employees of certain enterprises and institutions, and prison inmates. It has been condemned by the European Parliament. *AP*

Massacre of 400 reported in northeast Burundi

GASORWE, Burundi (Reuter) – Burundi troops and Tutsi gunmen massacred an estimated 400 Hutus – mostly women and children – in northeast Burundi last week, diplomats and aid workers said yesterday.

One Western diplomat said the killings were clearly a massacre. He had also seen a one-year-old girl who had been bayoneted in her genitals so she would never be able to have children.

US Ambassador Robert Krueger said that the vast majority of those killed were women and children.

The diplomats, in the capital Bujumbura, and aid workers in the Gasorwe area of the northeast, said an estimated 400 members of the Hutu majority had been slaughtered by troops from the Tutsi-dominated army and Tutsi gunmen last week.

Reporters saw six wounded survivors from the Gasorwe area in the government-run hospital at the nearby town of Muyinga on Monday. Some had been shot and others had been slashed with knives and machetes and hit with rocks.

The UN refugee agency meanwhile said yesterday an attempted exodus of some 50,000 Rwandan refugees from Burundi has been halted, but diplomats and officials forecast grimly that the country's crisis is far from over.

Peter Kessler, a spokesman in the Kenyan capital Nairobi for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said a total of 8,700 refugees had returned to their camps in Burundi by Sunday night.

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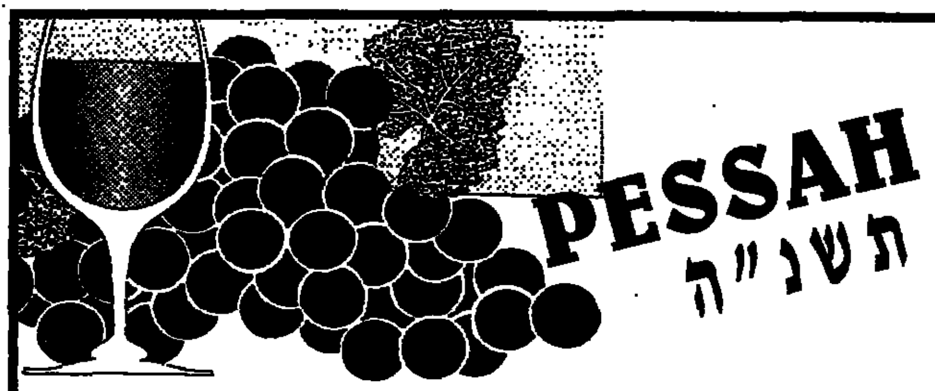

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ajor meets US
ers, plays down
eports of rift

PAUL MYLREA
WASHINGTON

US and British policy ha
differed.

British officials said Ch
pher had been supportive o
ain's position in the de
Northern Ireland peace pro
the cause of last month's
Clinton row

Major was so enraged
ton's decision to award a
stricted visa to Gerry
head of the Irish Repu
Army's political wing Sin
that he took five days to
to a telephone call from
president

Major used a brief new
ence after his talks with C
pher at the British embas
on Adams to enter into
tive discussions on scrap
IRA's weapons, a major
point in the peace proces

Christopher took pains
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WORLD BRIEFS

NATO monitoring in Bosnia

ion party could quit unity gov't

bombers claim being framed

law for AIDS tests on foreigners

Massacre of 400
reported in
northeast Burund

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The bomb factory

THE Hamas leadership must have decided that it is more advantageous to blame Israel for the explosion which destroyed its bomb factory in Gaza than to admit gross incompetence. Attributing the explosion to Israel implies that no one, even in the heart of Gaza, is safe from the long arm of the Israeli security services – an admission capable of lowering the Palestinian fighting morale and Hamas's prestige. But it does feed the paranoia of Hamas followers, absolves its leading terrorists of the stigma of amateurism, and provides a revenge theme for the next terrorist attempt.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was right to suggest yesterday that it made little difference whether the Hamas tried to "avenge" the explosion or mount an operation under a different slogan. Israel must be prepared for terrorist activity regardless of the immediate excuse for it.

The explosion in Gaza means not only that a few Hamas operatives will no longer threaten Israelis, but that terrorism is alive and well under the nose of the Palestinian Authority. While the Palestinian Police used the fortuitous accident to display a few captured Hamas bombs to the press, the fact is that it has done virtually nothing to combat Hamas. On the contrary. Even after the explosion, the main criticism voiced by PLO officials was not against terrorist activity as such, but against the use of the PA areas as launching pads for terror.

This distinction between permissible violence and "acts which do not serve the Palestinian national interest," as one PLO spokesman put it yesterday, has characterized Yasser Arafat's policy ever since he took control of Gaza and Jericho. In speeches he supports the "armed struggle," but it is obviously in his interest to demonstrate that he can control all armed militias in PA territory. Conversely, it serves him well to show that areas not under his control are terror-prone. The message of this distinction is plain enough: if Israel wishes to have peace and quiet in all the territories, it had better withdraw and hand them over to his forces.

Whether Arafat can control Palestinian terrorists even if he truly wants to is questionable. It was enough to view the numbers and militancy of the mourners in yesterday's mock funerals for those who died in the explosion to realize how powerful the Hamas following is. To subdue this segment of the population – perhaps a majority in Gaza – or to entice it into the peace process with promises of power-sharing is a formidable task. It is doubtful that Arafat's Byzantine, corrupt court, and the various rival security services surrounding him are either able or willing to perform it.

The shipyard fiasco

WHEN the ministerial committee on privatization announced the liquidation of Israel Shipyards yesterday, the workers' committee decried the decision as contrary to the country's interests. The shipyards, said the workers, are a vital national asset which should not be dismantled.

But it is difficult to dispute Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's conclusion that such patriotic talk is less than convincing. If the workers' recent conduct is any indication, they are more concerned about their retirement compensations than in the shipyards' continued functioning.

What the workers want – that the shipyards remain in government hands and operate, as in the past, with heavy subsidies – has fortunately been ruled out by the government. There are those who still believe in keeping public ownership of profitable enterprises or strategically important industries, but only hopeless fossils of the old socialist era can find justification for retaining a losing company. Nor is the claim of national security supportable, since the navy has its own shipyards.

That Israel Shipyards has been losing money is at least partly due to its management's grandiose self-image. Instead of serving as a potentially lucrative maritime "garage," a repair center for Israeli and other ships, it has attempted to construct combat and commercial vessels – something other shipyards can do better and cheaper.

The government obviously hoped that a private firm would keep the concern going by preferring profits to prestige. Viewing the shipyards solely as a business, a private owner would make the necessary personnel cuts and the required strategic decisions.

What the purchasing firm, SKO-Car, has not been prepared to do is to guarantee generous retirement conditions to *all* of the more than 200 workers. It would only promise such compensations to 100 workers over a period of five years – a reasonable compromise and the only way the company could ensure the smooth operation of the shipyards in the short term. But the staff, in yet another example of workers killing an enterprise with exaggerated demands, have insisted on guaranteed compensations for all. Obviously, they have little faith in SKO-Car's intentions to continue operating the yards.

Now it is up to the Histadrut, which is interested in keeping the concern going, to persuade the workers to be reasonable. Apparently no longer a captive of proletarian slogans, the Histadrut seems to realize that it would be a shame to let the workers' short-sightedness prevail. If the shipyards and the jobs they provide are to survive at all, they can do so only under private, business-like management.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JERUSALEM TRIMILLENNIUM

Sir, – In *Capital Talk* of March 24, Teddy Kollek blames the "present administration" for politicizing the commemoration of "3,000 years since King David established Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish Kingdom."

It is time to stop blaming our government and mayors for the international campaign against Israel's decision to maintain the unity of Jerusalem. These objections only belittle the *high* cultural purpose of the celebrations. Mr. Kollek himself states "no other nation claimed the city as its own," least of all its capital.

As a citizen of Jerusalem, I call upon Mr. Kollek to show leadership and expose the politically motivated and morally reprehensible stand of the international community.

RUTH K. COHEN
Jerusalem.

THE GAY FILM FESTIVAL

Sir, – I wish to express my utter amazement and deepest disgust that our beautiful city lent itself to the exhibition of a festival of "gay" films. Has the Cinematheque nothing better to do with its magnificent facilities?

This leads me to the term "gay" for what used to be termed "queer." By describing this deviant, aberrant tendency and its conduct in this specious manner, we lend it support and strengthen its flagrant display, thereby further impinging on normal conduct and behavior.

Were this group of people still to be described a queers, or in other rather more disparaging terms formerly in use, and not in laudatory misnomers, we might yet see this tendency regressing and not progressing in numbers and prevalence.

MICHAEL H. MOSHYTZ
Jerusalem.

FUNDAMENTALISM VS. TERRORISM

Sir, – Irrespective of Gabriel Ben-Dor's virulent words (Letters, March 13), the gist of his argument remains specious, incorrect and too presumptive to be true.

The claim that the Islamist revival poses a threat to Arabs and Moslems is ridiculous. The truth of the matter is that the bulk of Arab and Moslem masses around the world see in the Islamist phenomenon their main, even only, hope for a better future. Therefore, the claim that fundamentalism poses a threat, actual or potential, to the Arabs, can't really be taken seriously. It is true, though, that the fundamentalists constitute a prospective threat to the indisputably despotic Arab regimes. So what? As far as we are concerned, the disappearance of those stooges and quislings from the face of the earth has always been a beautiful dream for the masses. If Ben-Dor suggests that an unholy alliance be forged between Arab despots and Israel to ward off the imagined fundamentalist peril, so much the better for the fundamentalist cause.

Even authentic Arab and Moslem intellectuals who truly reflect the collective conscience of their people don't view fundamentalism as a danger. While the Naguib Mahfouzes and the Salman Rushdies are the darlings of Western and Israeli media, they are perceived as outright pariahs by the vast majority of the Arab-Moslem masses.

As for the issue of terrorism, I believe it has more to do with the objective realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict than with the ideological nature of the Islamists. It is not difficult for true seekers of truth to accept the fact that "fundamentalist terrorism" against Israel is merely a desperate and regrettable reaction to superior and deadlier Israeli violence against Palestinians. Terrorism is inherently diabolical, but it would be an insult to the average human intelligence to suggest implicitly or explicitly that fundamentalist terrorism is malignant while Jewish terrorism is benign.

The same thing can be said, with little variations, about fundamentalist violence against the authoritarian, dynastic and pseudo-religious dictatorships in the Arab world. For God's sake, what are the Arab masses and their intellectuals to do in the face of those cannibalistic sadists who think that the world began with them and will end with them?

KHALID M. AMAYREH
Hebron.

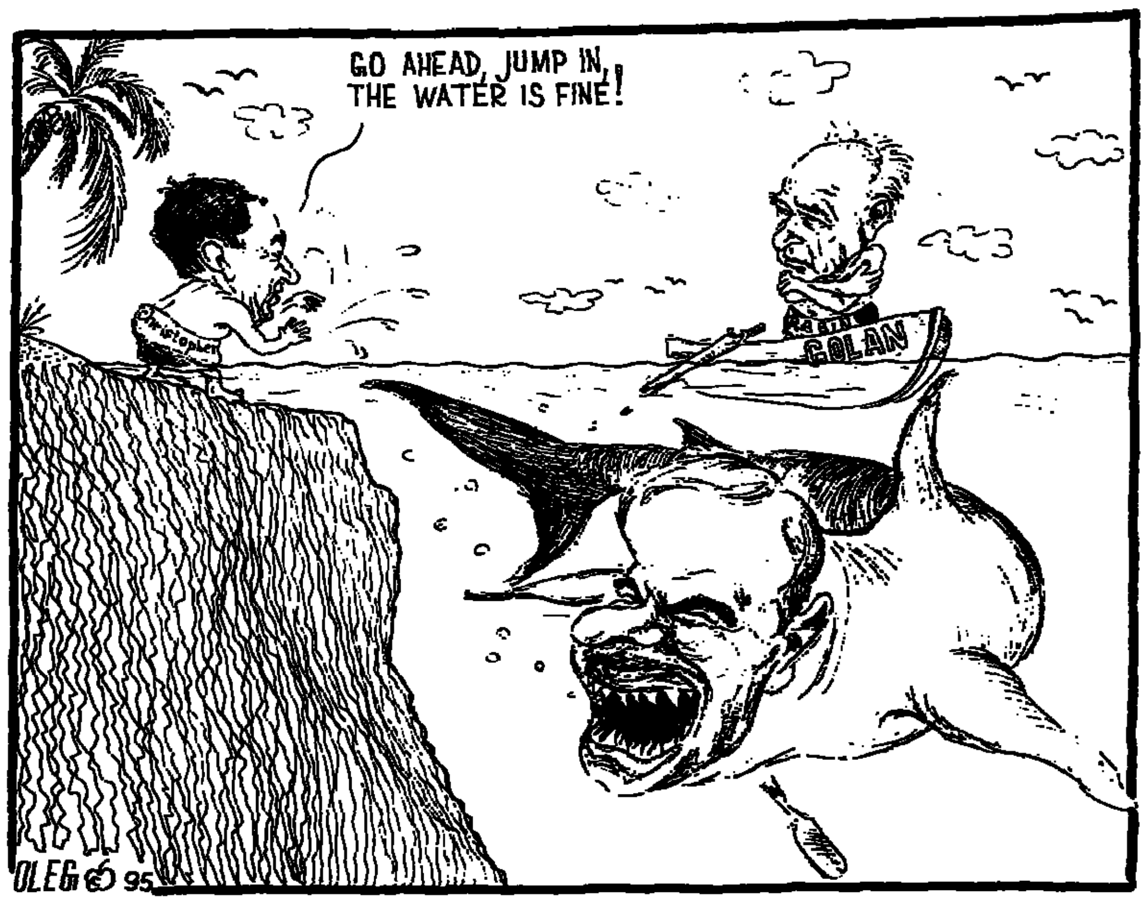
KNOWLEDGE GAP

Sir, – Thanks to Steve Rodan for his perceptive article on differing perceptions of reality in Middle East conflict (March 10).

Rodan asserts that Israel's intelligence failures can be attributed to a lack of knowledge regarding Arab attitudes and intentions. The article raises disturbing questions about the adequacy of the knowledge base that is used to make critical decisions. If, as Rodan suggests, the gap in knowledge is crucial in determining the fate of this country, what efforts are being made to close the gap? Are our schools providing adequate education in Arab-Moslem history, culture, language and beliefs? What other sources can be utilized to provide this vital knowledge?

Perhaps it is naive to assume that adequate knowledge and realistic perceptions of Arab intentions will lead to the formulation of wise decisions. But a lack of this knowledge makes it too easy to fall back on wishful thinking and self-serving fantasies. Acknowledging the deficit is a good beginning. What kind of action is needed to achieve a solution?

ELLEN SUCOV
Jerusalem.



Hindrance, not a help

SHAUL GUTMAN

THE foreign aid that Israel receives from the US is generally assumed to contribute to Israel's economy and security. But does it?

Israel today receives $3 billion a year, of which $1.8b. is for defense. This aid amounts to about 3 percent of Israel's GNP, and were it to be cut off, the state could obviously absorb the shock.

Prior to the Six Day War, Israel survived without American aid at all. And while "requiring" American aid, Israel is quite capable of bailing out its banks with some NIS 7b., saving the kibbutz movement with a similar sum, and assisting the Histadrut health fund to the tune of NIS 3b.

Furthermore, depicting Israel as being in need of American economic assistance means compromising its political status. In return for its annual $3b., the US gets a country psychologically dependent upon a great power, which can pressure it on delicate political matters, such as the question of the country's permanent borders.

Some facts about military research and development carried out in Israel should clarify the situation. In 1985, Israel spent 24 percent of the state defense budget on R&D. By 1988, this had dropped to 10 percent, and by 1993 to 7 percent.

By comparison, the US spent 11 percent of its defense budget on R&D in 1985, 13 percent in 1988 and 15 percent in 1993, this final figure being more than twice the relative size of Israel's R&D budget for the same year.

This despite the fact that the US borders on such "hostile" states as Canada and Mexico, whereas Israel is surrounded by a "benevolent" Arab world.

Prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, America spent $2.50 on equipment for every dollar invested in R&D. After the Russian collapse, this went down to only $1.25.

In other words, the reduction in the American defense budget meant doubling its research-and-development budget relative to its equipment expenditures, while maintaining a stable R&D budget in realistic terms.

Israel must rid itself of the yoke of US aid

ISRAEL, on the other hand, has moved in the opposite direction. Within less than a decade, the Ministry of Defense, under the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin, has been responsible for a stunning 70 percent drop in the R&D budget relative to overall defense expenditures. This decline in R&D is inversely proportional to the bloated increase in the salary component of the defense budget, a component which now reaches almost 50 percent.

These data indicate that Israel's own defense production is dwindling, and that Israel is becoming more and more dependent upon the acquisition of sensitive armaments from foreign sources.

US military aid to Israel is a key factor in this situation. Of the $1.8b of military aid it receives, Israel is entitled to spend only $400m. locally, while the other $1.4b must be spent in the US.

The American government views this as a direct subsidy paid to the American defense industry, and it tends to throttle its Israeli counterpart. Interestingly, Rabin, who doesn't favor subsidizing Israel's defense industry, is collaborating in subsidizing the Americans.

Meanwhile, scientists at Rafael, Israel's armaments development authority, and elsewhere have developed unique weapons systems which provide power margins and are able to reduce battle losses substantially. These systems are unavailable in the US, whose requirements are different from those of a small country.

But instead of exploiting Israel's qualitative advantage, the defense establishment, headed by Rabin, has handed over to China technologies of crucial future significance. And China, in turn, turned them over to Pakistan. The potentially destructive consequences are obvious.

American aid to Israel is one-sided. America supports Europe to the tune of some $140b. per annum, and South East Asia to some $70b. It's all part of the American defense budget. At the same time, aid to Israel is defined as foreign aid – with all the consequences it entails.

In order to free itself of this yoke, the Israeli government must accept no more American aid whatsoever.

If the US writes off Israel's current debt, as it did Egypt's, Israel's economy – especially its defense industries – will finally be able to come into its own.

The writer is an MK and professor at the Technion.

A new Palestinian dream

ANNE MARIE OLIVER
PAUL STEINBERG

IT is a serious mistake to view foreign aid to the Palestinians as a panacea. One of the lessons which should have been learned by observers of the intifada – which erupted during a time of relative prosperity – is that people are willing to pay a considerable material price for largely immaterial objects like power, glory and identity.

The continuation of suicide attacks by young Palestinians suggests that an acceptable price for some is life itself. Since the PLO took control of Jericho and Gaza in 1994, such attacks have not only continued, but have dramatically increased.

The demise of pan-Arabism and Marxism has left Hamas-brand Islamic fundamentalism as the last great world-system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is compellingly resonant, internally coherent, and imminently capable of channeling the rage and excesses of youth.

Its adherents claim that it offers a complete system of life – indeed, nothing less than salvation itself, both personal and national. For others, the fundamentalist groups are an insurance policy if the PLO, hobbled by corruption, cronyism, and a fundamental lack of vision, fails in its newfound task.

Yet Palestinian opposition to the peace process in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot be reduced to "the problem of Hamas." Significant numbers of Palestinians on both sides of the nationalist-Islamist divide believe that what Yasser Arafat calls "the peace of the brave" will get them nowhere.

Thus, despite the PLO's recent diplomatic advances, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are still seen as heroes, the objects of a pride and deep longing which are fundamentally non-partisan in nature.

Even members of Arafat's own Fatah faction, which is officially committed to peace with Israel, as well as soldiers in his Palestine Liberation Army, now working as policemen for the Palestinian Authority in Jericho and Gaza, openly express sympathy and admiration for the Islamic hero-martyrs.

Arafat hasn't been able to address his people's deep longing

A recent Hamas video shows a Palestinian policeman riding on the shoulders of Hamas adherents at the funeral of a martyr of the group. He is brandishing his rifle in one hand and a Koran in the other – a common expression of devotion to jihad.

NO ONE knows how many of Arafat's policemen have been successfully recruited by Islamic fundamentalists, but there can be no doubt that such recruitment is going on. In late 1994, a former PLO adherent and member of the Gaza police force blew himself up at a Jerusalem bus stop "in the way of God," under the banner of Hamas.

For many Palestinians, reclaiming Palestine is equivalent to reclaiming a primeval wholeness. Accordingly, giving up this goal is threatening on an intimately personal level.

Sadly, the PLO has found itself incapable of offering new goals to replace the old ones, many of which are now espoused and, more importantly, fulfilled by the fundamentalist groups. And Arafat knows this all too well.

On the one hand, he calls for peace with Israel; on the other, for jihad. The former calls are meant to reassure Israel and the West; the latter underline the degree to which the PLO chairman feels he must cater to the fundamentalists.

Such doublespeak is dangerous. Come election time, the Palestinian people may choose the real thing.

A new nation requires new symbols, new programs of action. For "the peace of the brave" to become more than an empty dream, Arafat and the PLO must offer the Palestinian people a clear and compelling new program, one that is relentlessly realistic and, at the same time, relentlessly visionary. It must offer prospects of economic advancement, but also a dream of wholeness as compelling as the one it seeks to replace.

The writers, visiting scholars at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, spent many years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and are working on a book on Palestine underground media.

Mixed blessing

JOSHUA BOTKIN

FOR years, Jewish Americans have eagerly anticipated the day when a Jew could be considered a serious candidate for the White House. Now, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, who is Jewish and has announced his candidacy for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, represents the potential fulfillment of that expectation.

Although the prospect of a Jewish candidate is titillating, the genuine article provokes intense ambivalence. We Jews are forever counting our blessings, and a Specter candidacy would be a mixed one.

I suspect that many Jews – myself included – would have a difficult time voting for Specter. Without question, his generally moderate views render him more palatable than the other likely Republican candidates. But Specter possesses a conservative streak – responsible for his strong anti-gun-control and pro-death-penalty positions – that is sure to displease many among the three-fourths of American Jews who identify with the Democratic Party.

At first glance, the political demographics seem to doom a Specter campaign. Common sense suggests that a minority candidate must first mobilize support among his or her "natural" constituency before seeking to attract mainstream backing. John F. Kennedy, for example, built the foundation for his 1960 victory with the votes of his fellow Catholics, who supported him by a 4-1 margin.

US president. A job for a Jewish boy?

Specter lacks general Jewish appeal. But common sense does not consider the nuances of ethnic politics or antisemitism in America. Ironically, Arlen Specter may be the *ideal* pioneer to break the Jewish-candidate barrier, precisely because of the Jewish opposition he is sure to encounter.

WHILE KENNEDY'S success depended on Catholics, who in 1960 comprised 23 percent of all Americans, Specter does not require unanimous Jewish support – which would still represent less than 3 percent of the population. Instead, Specter and Judaism stand to benefit, albeit indirectly, from the lukewarm reception he can expect to receive from US Jews.

Like anti-Catholic nativism, antisemitism traditionally has resulted in part from the belief that a minority group constitutes a monolithic bloc with a shared, secret agenda. While the idea of Jews all agreeing on anything is laughable to Jews themselves, suspicion persists among some non-Jews.

If a Specter campaign provokes a heated debate within the Jewish community, it could draw attention to the diversity of Jewish thought and politics, finally dispelling the various Jewish stereotypes. For instance, Specter's support of traditional Republican planks such as the *line-item* veto and a balanced-budget amendment, combined with his sponsorship of several tough crime-related bills and his aggressive questioning of Anita Hill in the Senate confirmation hearings on Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, effectively belie the myth that every Jew is liberal.

Prejudice grows out of ignorance. Familiarity breeds knowledge and respect. Some say it became increasingly difficult for Protestant voters to characterize Catholics as dangerous papists once they lived next door to Catholics and worked alongside them. As a result, by 1960 it was easy for most Americans to accept John Kennedy's assurances that he harbored no conflicting allegiance to Rome.

Jews, with far smaller numbers, remain almost unknown in certain quarters, allowing myths to remain unchallenged by reality.

Specter must not fear a vibrant debate among his fellow Jews. Instead, he should embrace the roles of provocateur and pioneer. He stands to gain votes as suspicion of a Jewish monolith declines. Even in defeat, he could leave an enduring legacy by unlocking the door for future Jewish candidates.

(Newsday)

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Actors' antics upstage UK productions

MATT WOLF
LONDON

STUNNED into stage fright by his inadequacy as an actor, a star quits a West End play for the Belgian city of Bruges.

Another breaks off a torrid relationship with a leading French star by fax.

Sound odd? More like business as usual in the world of England's dotty thespians, where the erratic behavior of actors gives new meaning to the word "eccentric."

Consider the following:

- Stephen Fry, Emma Thompson's costar in the film *Peter's Friends*, left Simon Gray's West End play *Cell Mates* in mid-February, depressed by poor reviews.

After days of feverish press coverage of his disappearance, Fry sent a fax to his London agent: "After realizing how inadequate my performance in *Cell Mates* was, I'm afraid I suffered a dreadful attack of what golfers call the yips and actors call stage fright and I slunk away rather than cause a scene in public."

- Academy Award-winner Daniel Day-Lewis is said by the tabloids to have ended his romance, via fax, with French actress Isabelle Adjani, leaving her seven months pregnant – and local journalists stupefied by his insensitivity. "Sending a fax is appalling," wrote Angela Lambert in *The Independent*.

Nor are these incidents unique.

Day-Lewis made headlines in 1989 when he walked off stage during a National Theater performance of *Hamlet*, claiming later that he had seen the real-life ghost of his father during the ghost scene.

Last summer, Nicol Williamson quit the stage minutes into the second night of his solo show, *Jack: A Night on the Town With John Barrymore*. His opening night was distinguished by a rambling curtain speech and a well-intentioned – if musically painful – impromptu concert following the play.

In December, comedian John Sessions left the stage during his first scene in the West End play *My Night With Reg*, explaining subsequently that he was briefly overcome by what had been a personally difficult year.

He pulled himself together, and the performance started over.

WHAT OF the old-fashioned show-must-go-on impulse once thought to prevail in London, above all theater capitals?

In many ways, it's still here. Actors are far less inclined to skip performances, and producers far less tolerant of such absences – indeed, National Theater artistic director Richard Eyre refused Rosemary Harris permission to attend the Academy Awards presentations in Los Angeles last week because she was due to perform at the National that night in Euripides's *The Women of Troy*.

Perhaps it's simply that the British do nothing by halves.

Two seasons ago, Dame Maggie Smith was the toast of the town, not for the excellence of her performance in *The Importance of Being Earnest* but for the double takes and worse with which she was deliberately undermining a production she was said to detest.

A 1980 Old Vic staging of *Macbeth*, with Peter O'Toole, sold out on the strength of savage reviews, with people packing the theater to see just how idiosyncratic and weird O'Toole's performance that evening would be.

Eccentricity runs deep in the thespian psyche in England, from the late Ralph Richardson, who got around town on a motorcycle and was often accompanied by a pet mouse, to Vanessa Redgrave, who makes news as much for the myriad of causes she espouses as for her extraordinary talent.

Fry's behavior was at odds with the superior, imperturbable manner he brought to his role of Jeeves in the celebrated TV series based on P.G. Wodehouse's novels.

In a recent interview with a London newspaper, Fry railed about British newspapers in general and critics in particular.

"Professionally, to pick up a pen and make someone cry – however necessary you deem it to be – and people do cry – they cry – and you may say, 'boo hoo, poor little wimp,' well, yes, you can say that if you want, but I wouldn't want to say that about someone's who's crying," Fry said.

Such an admission of defeat in the face of critics is rare in London, where the writers are benign compared with their New York counterparts.

In a city with 11 daily newspapers, no single critic has the power of *The New York Times*'s theater reviewer.

At least one local critic was sounding a tad guilty – "Our track record is certainly worrying," wrote Charles Spencer in *The Daily Telegraph*, who extended Fry "my sympathy."

But if it was just stage fright, Fry stands in an honorable line.

Sir Ian McKellen, in a letter published in *The Daily Telegraph*, confessed that he had suffered 20 years ago from overhearing other actors criticize his work.

The next night, he froze on stage: "Unable to say the lines, unable even to walk offstage, I longed for the proverbial trapdoor to open and release me from the hell of being a failed actor."

(Associated Press)

Still a kind of 'wonder'

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

A pop song's hook is the line that reaches out of the radio and reels in your ear.

Really great hooks are unforgettable, like Stevie Wonder's "I Just Called to Say I Love You." Is there anyone in the Western or would-be Western world who's been near a car radio or a Walkman since the song's release in 1984 and *not* heard that line?

Surely it's the hook that launched a million phone calls, best sung spontaneously to someone to whom you've been a real jerk. It's Motown Records' all-time greatest hit single, outhooking even classics such as the Supremes' "Stop! In the Name of Love" and Marvin Gaye's "I Heard it Through the Grapevine."

Wonder, who's been on the Motown label for 35 years, has released a new recording called *Conversation Peace* (Helicon). The Little Stevie Wonder of "Yester me, Yester You, Yester Day" is now an august elder, spotlighted as a "living legend" on the show *The Soul of MTV*.

This is the man whose hook "Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday to Ya" spearheaded the campaign to make civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday an American national holiday, a man who has been called a genius about as often as Albert Einstein. He's also an old-timer who hasn't had a hit in 10 years but who is busy pounding the comeback trail.

Wonder's last memorable hook, "Part Time Lover," was released in 1985. His 1987 album, *Characters*, disappeared with barely a ripple, and he has been working on *Conversation Peace* since 1990. The question is: Can this all-time great inspirational artist still cut it?

Like many people, this reviewer has had at least one period in her life during which Wonder's overriding faith served her as a musical life raft. It's therefore personally disappointing to decide that this effort only half succeeds.

Overall, the Wonder sound comes through. From the first cut, "Rain Your Love Down," he weaves a rich musical tapestry with plenty of content as he sings about a world full of beautiful opportunities missed.

SOMEHOW, though, the hook "rain your love down" fails to stick in your mind. When this reviewer played the music for visiting friends, it was quickly relegated to the background.

Even the hardest-hitting cut, "My Love Is With You," a plea to ban handguns, didn't really hit them over the head. Instead it was a pretty, but not amazing, love song, "Taboo To Love," that stopped the conversation for a moment. Only that one and the good, old-fashioned "For Your Love" penetrated their overworked ears.

The latter single sounds rather like it was recorded 20 years ago. It's doing fine for Wonder at No. 2 on *The Soul of MTV*'s hit parade. *Still*, it fails to register in the way that songs from classic albums like *Talking Book* and *Songs in the Key of Life* did.

It is impossible to complain about musicianship when faced with the likes of Bradford Marsalis and Anita Baker backing Wonder on the jazzy "Sensuous Whisper." Yet even that one fails to totally capture the mind, the way Wonder's greatest work does. There's something too muffled about his presentation here. Where is the old unerring clarity?

It's not that Wonder has either lost his faith or run out of things to say. The man who now spends much of his time living in Ghana is not stuck. He experiments with various world beats and backing groups. He even manages to turn in an uplifting recording while unflinchingly facing the reality of 10-year-olds killed by stray bullets, which is not uncommon in America's inner cities. The man is no spiritual coward.

The final, title song, is especially convincing, with its message about the responsibility to stop genocide. Interestingly, Wonder mentions the Holocaust and slavery side by side. His religious conviction is also extremely powerful, and the purpose and the execution are impeccable.

How can one not bow down to Stevie Wonder? Yet the old thunderbolts of unstoppable inspiration are missing. The problem is with the hooks – they just don't slice through the air the way the old ones did.

Does the comeback work? Only partially. Wonder is still an international treasure, and this is a recording that can be easily enjoyed. Anyone who loves the man would do well to make the effort to listen to it. Just don't expect it to be as exciting as his greatest work – but maybe it's simply unfair to judge Wonder against a back catalog that rivals even that of the Beatles.

Wonder's 'Conversation Peace' may not have the glory of past hits, but it's still a comeback.

Club turns to catwalk

EMILY HAUSER

SIZE up an alternative fashion show.

Paganka Fashions is sponsoring what it calls an "alternative evening," featuring an unusual fashion show and musical performances by Riki Gal and Monika Sex at Tel Aviv's Old Allenby Cinema on Monday.

Actress Yael Abecassis (the cool cucumber in Bank Leumi's direct-banking ad campaign), Ethiopian-immigrant stage and commercial actress Maski Shviro, and Sarit Chen, who performs with the Habimah National Theater, will be among the models.

They will be joined by women who have never before been in the public eye – "women like you and me," in the words of the organizers. The proceeds will go to the Tel Aviv Rape Crisis Center.

The models are slated to sing, act, dance and generally cut loose in what is being billed as an attempt to demonstrate that women are not just "clothes hangers on legs."

Comedienne Orit Banai, last seen performing filler routines at the Pre-Eurovision Song Contest, will be emceeing in the persona of her most famous character, Limor.

Monika Sex is fronted by playwright Yehoshua Sobol's son Yahali. The band specializes in melancholy lyrics belied by its-got-a-great-beat, you-can-dance-to-it music and the fun the band members clearly have on stage.

The Old Allenby Cinema, boasting what may be the country's most advanced sound-and-light system, has been the venue of choice for a slew of hip events of late.

Club co-owner Rel Nael believes the issue of violence against women is an important one and said he is happy to donate his club to the Rape Crisis Center for the evening.

The Old Allenby Cinema is at 58 Allenby St. The show starts at 9:30 p.m.. and tickets are NIS 30.

Opera concert puts drama center stage

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THANKS to conductor Pinchas Steinberg, this concert performance of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* sounded like the staged opera. Steinberg electrified the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and inspired the singers, extracting the utmost from each of them. It was a dramatic, passionate two and a half hours which had us sitting in tense expectation, excited and often genuinely moved.

Romantic and shamelessly melodramatic, *Il Trovatore* ranges in mood from great tenderness to passionate hate. Steinberg handled the opera's passions with unmitigated force and directness.

Steinberg was fortunate to have a good cast, although the female singers eclipsed the men.

Tenor Tonio Di Paolo was the weakest link. But for Steinberg's helpful gestures, he would have severed the tenor passages from the main body of the opera.

Baritone Luis Giron May from Guatemala, singing the part of Count Di Luna, did his best but only became harmonically integrated into the ensemble in the last act. Again, it was Steinberg who led him and stretched out a helping and reassuring hand.

The two women, soprano Michele Crider as Leonora and mezzo Stephania Toczyska as the Gypsy Azucena, stole the show. Crider's dramatic interpretation of the doomed woman's part impressed by both its extremes: in fortissimo, her mighty voice rode the orchestra easily; in pianissimo, she achieved the most delicate lyricism in the highest range of her register.

But nobody could rival the artistry of Toczyska – a perfect singer and a very strong theatrical personality. Her powers of representation and impersonation are remarkable, and her stage presence and vocal quality merge in perfect unity. Many of her passages were truly stunning.

The two choirs, the Jauna Muzika Choir from Lithuania and the Carl Maria von Weber Men's Choir from Berlin, were excellent. But the real hero of the evening was conductor Steinberg, who achieved the impossible: He turned the IPO into a real opera orchestra and the Mann Auditorium into a genuine operatic stage with constant action, culminating in a great climax.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, April 2.

Benjamin Bar-Am

PIANIST DANIEL Gortler, in his last chance to appear in the Youth at the Center series, performed a farewell recital.

He made Schumann's *Blumenstück* (Flower Piece) bloom with all the subtle, delicate fragrance of the composer's Romanticism. It turned out to be a flower in the wilderness, though. The fast movements of Beethoven's Sonata op. 10/3 demand more than compulsive virtuosity with Gortler's breathless, not always particularly clean runs, and abrupt, erratic accentuations. Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata's final movement likewise sounded hurried, half-digested and unarticulated, as if phrases did not exist. In its opening movement, the sensitive balance of emotion tempered by restraint offered a higher promise for what was to follow.

Virtuosity was also the dominant tendency in Chopin's *Fantasia* op. 49, to the virtual exclusion of the work's lyrical qualities. At least Liszt's arrangements of songs by Schubert and Schumann and his Paraphrase on Verdi's *Rigoletto* were treated as the showpieces that they are.

Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, March 31

Ury Eppstein

Drive slower!
Drive with care!

Russian realism too ghoulish for locals

Steep Road by Eugenya Ginzburg. **Difficult People** by Yosef Bar-Yosef. Both directed by Galina Voltchek. Sovremenyik Theater, Moscow. Respectively at Habimah's Rovina Hall and Hagesher's Hangar, Old Jaffa. Cast: Lia Achjakov, Igor Kvasha, Valentin Gaft and Avangarde Leontiev.

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

WITH the late Eugenya Ginzburg's *Steep Road* (1989) and a translation into Russian of our own Yosef Bar-Yosef's *Difficult People* (1992), the Sovremenyik Theater gave audiences here a glimpse of what passes for contemporary theater with their Russian counterparts.

The audiences on both nights consisted largely of Russian immigrants, with whom these impressive actors and their powerful director were evidently highly popular.

Steep Road is a dramatized documentary about the via dolorosa of women victims in a Stalinist gulag.

For veteran Israelis in the audience, its pileup of ghoulish realism was hard to take and inordinately depressing.

Difficult People inevitably suffered from comparison with the original Habimah production. The Russians' interpretation of an expatriate Israeli tragicomedy highlighted the comic and clownish aspects of the play.

Valentin Gaft, with fanatic eyes and a compelling stage presence, gave an impressive study of the paranoiac, nutty arch-nudnik suitor from Jerusalem.

Lia Achjakov's sulky and simpering Rahel, the exiled Polish Jew stranded in a dreary London one-room apartment, was also touching.

Even so, it contrasted unfavorably with Rivka Gur's more sophisticated and cynical 1992 portrayal of the same life-weary old maid. Igor Kvasha as Rahel's leech of a big brother sealed off the unhappy triangle with boisterous comic relief.

Young choreographers get moment in the sun

DANCE REVIEW

DORA SOWDEN

SIX new works by four choreographers made up the program at the Habama Theater in Jerusalem's Talpiot neighborhood last Tuesday, drawing a large audience.

The event prompted the thought that such occasions are beneficial both for exposing audiences to young talent and for self-criticism.

The brightest item by Yael Shanit was a group work in the movement forms of the Noa Eshkol-Amos Hetz style. The performers (including the choreographer) moved smoothly and cleverly in systematic gyrations to a charming collage of music. This gave the performance a special buoyancy and attractiveness.

Yasmin Palmoni began with a rather frenzied solo, displaying energy and control to interesting music by Mirav Hadar. Her second creation was a group dance in which the dancing was more notable than the dance, to music by Steve Reich.

Zahar Shapira also choreographed two works: a solo that was well danced, but its dramatic aim was less evident, and a lively group dance.

Sagit Gelman's solo had an oriental flavor. Her performance, mostly on a mat, was in adagio pace.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's review of *The Silences of the Palace*, "and loud music played" should have read "oud music."

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	3	ARIK EINSTEIN	*FILLED WITH LOVE*
#2	2	4	ANNIE LENNOX	MEDUSA
#3	8	32	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#4	16	2	NICK CAVE	WONDERFUL WORLD OF ...
#5	4	2	ELTON JOHN	MADE IN ENGLAND
#6	NEW	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	TRANCEMANIA-YELLO
#7	9	24	CRANBERRIES	NO NEED TO ARGUE
#8	5	13	FILM SOUND TRACK	PULP FICTION
#9	7	9	AVTIPUS	THE WEATHERMAN KNOWS
#10	12	17	DANA INTERNAT'L	UMPATAMPA
#11	11	11	SHALOM HANOCH	VI-O-LENCE
#12	RE	1	FILM SOUND TRACK	LION KING
#13	25	5	P.J. HARVEY	TO BRING YOU MY LOVE
#14	18	78	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#15	/	1	NURIT GALRON	CLASSICA

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE – re-entry

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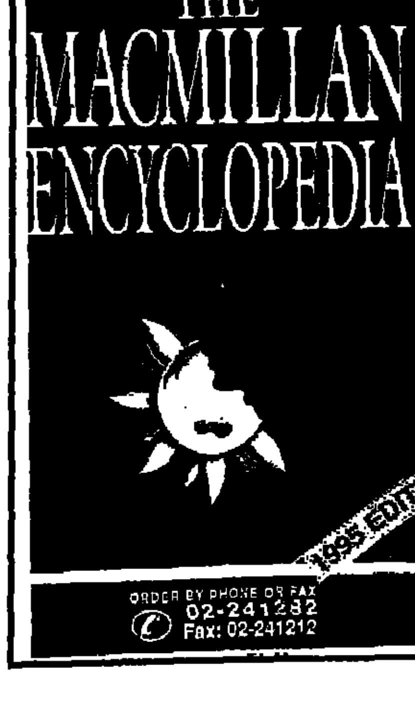

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THE ISRAEL FESTIVAL
Hits the Road!
A booklet in English, with full details of all the Festival events, with performance dates and ticket prices, will be distributed to
THE JERUSALEM POST
READERS on Thursday, April 6 1995.
Those interested in the festival events and who do not receive the booklet, please call 02-294499 and it will be mailed to you.
Performances will be featured in "Keshet"
on the TV Second Channel
at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 7
repeated at 24:15 on Saturday, April 8.

THE JERUSALEM
POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Committee decides to delay El Al sale

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Interministerial Committee on Privatization decided yesterday to delay the sale of El Al, set for May, for at least six months.

The decision to put off the sale of the national airline company came as a result of the wide gap between the government's own assessment of the value of El Al's assets and the underwriter's evaluation of what it was worth on the market.

According to El Al director-general Rafi Harlev and the newly appointed chairman of the board, Yossi Ciechanover, the company is worth more than $500 million.

However, the underwriters' assessment of El Al's value was only about $130m.

Harlev attributed the wide gap in valuations to the fact that El Al did not fly on Shabbat, thus attributing for 17 percent non-utilization of its fleet.

If the company could fly on Shabbat, Harlev said in a recent press briefing, the profits would be such as to justify a $500m. price tag.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said the company itself had no reaction to the decision.

It was up to the owners, the government, to decide what to do with the company, he said.

In a related development, El Al yesterday began its new weekly service to Seoul.

Rafi Harlev: El Al is worth at least $500 million.

60 firms back out of establishing plants in Negev free trade zone

EVELYN GORDON

SIXTY companies have said they will not set up factories in the planned free trade zone in the Negev, because of the delays in setting it up, MK Shmuel Avital (Labor) said yesterday.

Speaking during a motion for the agenda, Avital blamed the government for the delay, saying he had heard it was the State Attorney's Office which requested it.

"The tender should already have been on the table," he said. "[As a result], 60 companies have withdrawn."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, responding for the government, admitted that the State Attorney's Office had asked for a delay until April to resolve certain legal problems. However, he said, the real blame rested with the residents of Omer, who have been fighting the proposal.

"The people of Omer, for egoistic and unjustified reasons, are objecting," he said, insisting that their fears of environmental damage were groundless.

Avital said, however, that most Negev residents wanted the process speeded up, because they were depending on the free trade zone to provide more jobs.

Though much of the debate related to the free trade zone, the official subject of the motion was the banks' treatment of people who cannot repay loans they took out to purchase stocks.

Many people who complained to the Bank of Israel that the banks had lured them into taking out large loans which they could not repay have charged that the banks punished them for complaining by filing suit for the immediate repayment of the loans.

Shohat blasted this behavior by the banks. "Any bank customer who has been subjected to pressure... should not hesitate to tell the supervisor of banks immediately," he said.

Tax revenues up 11% last month

JOSE ROSENFELD

ECONOMIC activity picked up in the past two months, based on the 11 percent increase in tax revenues last month from March 1994 to NIS 7.1 billion, State Revenues Director Tsipi Gal-Yam reported yesterday.

When adjusting for changes to tax laws, receipts actually grew 13%.

During the first quarter of the year, tax receipts increased 4% from the same period last year to NIS 21.1b.

However, adjusting for legislative tax changes, which reduced the tax base by NIS 420 million, revenues rose 6%.

Income tax revenues totaled NIS 3.8b., a real increase of 12%.

Since January, revenues rose 9%. despite the changes that took place.

These changes include the elimination of the 35% income tax bracket and the NIS 800 million expansion of the tax brackets, the additional tax credit point for working women and the reduction of corporate income taxes from 38% to 37%.

Customs and Value Added Tax receipts jumped 10% in real terms to NIS 3.1b., after dropping in the two preceding months.

Gal-Yam noted, however, that the rise partially reflected the fact that during March, last year, customs houses were closed due to Pessah.

During the first quarter, customs and VAT receipts fell 1.5% to NIS 9b.

The fall was the product of reductions in import duties and from the large increase in VAT refunds generated by high levels of industrial input imports and industrial machinery and equipment imports in the first two months of the year.

Adjusting for the refunds, VAT receipts rose 1%.

Last month, car imports jumped 32% to 12,000 cars from the same period last year.

Adjusting for the fact that customs houses were closed last year for Pessah, car imports only increased 10%.

Similarly, imports of durable goods rose.

Refrigerator imports shot up 67%, video recorders 19%, laundry machines 14%, dishwashers 8% and televisions 4%.

US moves to support dollar after record low against yen

NEW YORK (Reuter) – The United States launched a concerted bid yesterday to push up the dollar after it hit a record low, saying publicly it supported a "stronger dollar" and repeatedly buying the currency aggressively in the open market.

The moves were the strongest by the US government this year, as the dollar has fallen sharply against the Japanese yen and the German mark.

The dollar fell to 86 yen in early trading, eclipsing the prior 86.30-yen record low set Friday.

The drop led the Clinton administration to order the Federal Reserve to intervene and buy back dollars for marks and yen, hoping its presence in the currency market would drive the dollar back up.

The Fed first entered the market overnight in Asia – its first appearance in the Asian foreign exchange markets since February 1992 – and then continued buying during the day in New York.

"We acted in the exchange markets overnight out of concern with recent movements in exchange rates," Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said in a statement.

"This administration believes a strong dollar is in America's interest, and we remain committed to strengthening the fundamentals that are ultimately important to maintaining a strong and stable currency," he added.

Since the start of the year, the dollar has fallen 10 percent against the Japanese yen and 9% against the German mark.

After the intervention, the dollar was trading at 1.3725 marks, against its low of 1.3680. It was also trading at 86.25 yen, up from a low of 86 yen hit earlier in the day.

The action by the US came just days after Germany and Japan cut interest rates in a bid to support the battered dollar.

In a surprise move that caught financial markets off guard Thursday, the German Bundesbank slashed its key discount rate by a half percentage point, to 4%. Japan also eased market rates but left its benchmark discount rate unchanged.

The Federal Reserve, which met to discuss monetary policy last week, left US interest rates unchanged. By Monday, the administration had had enough of its lagging currency.

The intervention took many dealers by surprise.

Bruno: Israel unlikely to face 'Mexico' crisis

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL is an unlikely candidate for an economic crisis of the sort that has befallen Mexico and sent shock waves throughout the world, said World Bank Chief Economist and former Bank of Israel governor Michael Bruno yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the seminar on capital flows, which preceded the annual general meeting of the board of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank, Bruno pointed out that Israel's fiscal and monetary policy are following the right track.

The Mexican financial crisis was precipitated by election economics, which led the government to stray from budgetary and monetary restraint. "When a country messes up the basic macroeconomics, it suffers the consequences," Bruno said.

By contrast, he noted Israel has followed a course of fiscal and monetary restraint since the adoption of its stabilization program in the mid-1980s.

He also attributed Israel's inflation mainly to structural economic problems, which cannot be addressed solely by means of the central bank's monetary policy but require the Treasury's intervention as well.

Bruno criticized the government's generous public sector wage pact, but commended the latest steps recently adopted, including the tax and interest rate cuts.

Asked what he thought about the growth in the country's foreign currency reserves, Bruno responded that in the long run it was not good.

US Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs Larry Summers praised Israel's dedication to control inflation to provide the stability necessary for investment and economic growth.

Summers said it was an important period in Latin America, and pointed to the large private sector attendance as proof that the region is still attractive to investors.

The meeting, which opens today, has attracted more than 50 ministers and bank governors from around the world, representatives of 150 banks and financial institutions and 2,700 businessmen.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will be installed as chairman of the board of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank for a one-year term.

Seagram reportedly in talks to sell DuPont stake

NEW YORK (Reuter) – The Seagram Co. is close to a deal to sell its nearly 25 percent stake in EI du Pont de Nemours & Co back to Du Pont for nearly $10 billion in cash, *The New York Times* reported yesterday, citing people close to the talks.

The *Times* said that one person familiar with the talks said the president of Seagram, Edgar Bronfman Jr., was interested in using the money from the sale of the Du Pont stake to make an offer for MCA, which is owned by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd.

Seagram declined comment to the newspaper, and Du Pont officials were not immediately available to comment.

Last week speculation surfaced that several companies, Seagrams among them, were interested in bidding for the Matsushita entertainment subsidiary.

Speculation of MCA's sale has intensified with the cancellation of a routine meeting of MCA's top management, the paper said.

The *Times* said there are no direct talks yet between Seagram and Matsushita regarding the MCA sale.

The report also said it is unclear what Seagram would do with its nearly 15 percent stake in Time Warner Inc. if the Canadian beverage company were to buy MCA.

With the dollar's plunge, Matsushita would have to sell MCA for much more than the $6.6b. it paid for MCA in 1990 to record a profit on its investment, the *Times* said.

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Electricity production bill to be presented next week

EVELYN GORDON

A BILL requiring private companies to produce 20 percent of the country's electricity will be presented to the cabinet next week, Energy Minister Gonen Segev told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

According to the bill, half of the privately-produced energy – about 1,800 megawatts – will be produced here and the other half abroad. All will be sold to the Israel Electric Corporation, which will then distribute it to customers.

"In light of the interest shown by foreign companies and the willingness of international institutions to invest in the region, I believe the production of electricity abroad will begin as soon as possible," Segev said.

The bill will also establish an independent public council which will set rates and rules for supplier-customer relations.

Committee chairman Gideon Patt (Likud) said he wants to pass the bill before the IEC's exclusive license expires next March.

IEC director-general Rafi Peled, however, said he had reservations about the bill. It would, he said, give private investors large profits, while the state would get nothing.

Furthermore, he said, IEC sells electricity for about 30% less than the European average, and it will be hard for private companies to cope with these low prices.

Adi Amorai, IEC's chairman of the board, said that by the end of this year the company will be divided into six regional units, each with its own set of books, to encourage streamlining.

He also said the company plans to double its production capacity over the next 10 years, since electricity use has been growing by some 6.5% a year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank Discount signs agreement with workers: The Bank Discount work dispute came to an end yesterday following the signing of a wage agreement for 1994. Workers declared a work dispute in December to express their objections to management's failure to sign a work agreement for 1994. According to the new agreement, workers will receive a 4.5 percent wage increment, with a 2.5% retroactive rise from January 1994, 1.5% from June and 0.5% from December.

Management also agreed to increase workers' salaries by an average of 6%, according to individual workers performance. The selective wage rise will start from January 1, 1995.

Illinois Governor Jim Edgar is scheduled to arrive today with a delegation of businessmen from his state. The delegation plans to continue on to Jordan on Sunday.

Bill proposed to prevent concentration of economic power: The supervisor of monopolies would be able to forbid sales or mergers that would concentrate too large a chunk of the economy in one pair of hands, rather than merely too large a chunk of a given industry, according to a bill submitted yesterday by Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor). Gal said the bill was meant to deal with the problems created by the sale of government companies to Israeli business magnates.

Vote delayed on bill to reduce employers' parallel tax: A bill to reduce employers' parallel tax payments by 1.95 percent was postponed yesterday until after the Pessah recess, because Hadash demanded the vote be made a no-confidence vote.

The bill, which will cost some NIS 1.7 billion, was also opposed by many coalition members, who said the money could be better used to fight poverty. By making it a no-confidence vote, however, Hadash virtually guaranteed that the coalition will support it.

Energy Minister Gonen Segev has approved a Fogel Committee proposal lowering the cost of hooking up to the national electric grid.

RADA reports the US Army has expressed interest in purchasing its Apache Helicopter simulator system.

Binat to participate in educational project: Binat will participate in an educational project which teaches by long-distance conference call. The project, to be carried out by the Bar-Ilan University's Safed branch, will connect BA students remotely to the central campus.

Environmentalists call for ban on oil tankers in Gulf of Eilat: Eco-Peace, a newly established consortium of regional non-governmental organizations from Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, have called for a series of measures to protect the environment in the Gulf of Eilat, including imposing a gulf-wide ban on oil tankers entering gulf waters.

Electric Fuel Corp. reports $3.6m. in annual net losses

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELECTRIC Fuel Corporation has reported 1994 annual net losses of $3.6 million, following a net gain of $651,000 in 1993.

Revenues rose 32 percent to $4.8m. from $3.7m. in 1993.

The loss included a provision for $1.5m. in anticipated losses due to additional costs associated with the company's $14.5m. field test program to supply the German Federal Postal Authority.

The results include revenues from the German Federal Postal Authority and construction and delivery of a zinc regeneration plant for Edison SpA near Turin.

• **Minrav Holdings** announced a rise in annual net profits to NIS 7m. from NIS 6m. in 1993, while earnings per share increased to NIS 11.03 from NIS 9.35.

Revenues fell to NIS 122.5m. from NIS 143.84m. in 1993.

The company is active in the construction field and in PVC manufacturing.

The growth in net profits was attributed to apartment sales.

Fourth quarter net profits rose to NIS 2.9m. from NIS 1.9m. in the parallel period in 1993.

Quarterly revenues went up to NIS 36.8m. from NIS 26.3m.

• **Crystal** posted a decrease in annual net profits to NIS 5.2m. from NIS 7.3m. in 1993, while earnings per share fell to NIS 2.70 from NIS 3.82.

Revenues went up to NIS 130m. from NIS 113.8m.

• **Nice Computers** reported an annual net gain of NIS 48.1m., compared with a net loss of NIS 5.1m. in the previous year.

Revenues rose to NIS 30.78m. from NIS 19.99m. in 1993.

The company registered a one-time gain of NIS 94m. on the sale of subsidiary NiceCom to US firm 3COM and losses of NIS 37.5m. on other subsidiaries.

• **Cyclone Aviation Products** suffered net losses of NIS 2.4m. last year, compared with NIS 268,000 net losses in 1993.

Revenues fell to NIS 45.7m. from NIS 57.5m.

Since 86% of Cyclone sales are to the defense sector, the company is dependent on military budgets.

Sales to Lockheed Corp. dropped to 17% from 31%.

• **Nechushtan Properties and Enterprises** reported an increase in annual net profits to NIS 463,000 from NIS 312,000 in 1993, while earnings per share dropped to NIS 0.031 from NIS 0.045.

Annual revenues rose to NIS 2.34m. from NIS 900,000.

• **Israel Resort Hotels** (part of Israel Land Development) posted a NIS 822,000 annual net loss, compared with a NIS 6.5m. net gain in 1993.

Revenues rose to NIS 140.2m. from NIS 137.57m.

• **Hamagen**, a subsidiary of Migdal, reported a jump in 1994 pretax profits to NIS 20.3m. from NIS 19m. in 1993.

After-tax profits slipped to NIS 11.3m. from NIS 12.8m., as the tax charge rose.

Life insurance profits rose sharply to NIS 5.4m. from NIS 100,000.

Total life insurance premiums went up to NIS 203m. from NIS 164m., while general insurance profits rose to NIS 17.3m. from NIS 16.9m.

State budget registers NIS 96m. surplus in March

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE state budget registered a NIS 96 million surplus last month, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Expenditures were NIS 10.1 billion, while revenues totaled NIS 10.2b.

The jump in the volume of government spending and revenues of about NIS 3b. each reflected the cashing of National Insurance Institute bonds and the reinvestment of the money in bonds.

The government's net borrowing totaled NIS 558m.

Income from privatization totaled NIS 851m. from the sale of 100 percent of Shikun Ufituah.

Since the beginning of the year, a budget surplus of NIS 664m. has accumulated.

Expenditures totaled NIS 25b., while revenues were NIS 25.7b.

The Treasury borrowed NIS 117m. and its income from the sale of government companies totaled NIS 1.8b.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (4.4.95)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	5.375	5.500	6.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.750	5.125	5.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.250	3.375	3.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.250	2.325	2.750
Yen (10 million yen)	0.375	0.250	0.250

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.4.95)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.4320	3.4800	—	—	3.4680
U.S. dollar	2.9338	2.9814	2.89	3.03	2.9680
German mark	2.1308	2.1654	2.10	2.20	2.1518
Pound sterling	4.7497	4.8270	4.72	4.95	4.7815
French franc	0.6094	0.6193	0.60	0.63	0.6149
Japanese yen (100)	3.3819	3.4368	3.33	3.49	3.4195
Dutch florin	1.9032	1.9341	1.87	1.96	1.9211
Swiss franc	2.5998	2.6416	2.56	2.68	2.6223
Swedish krone	0.3971	0.4036	0.39	0.41	0.4007
Norwegian krone	0.4754	0.4831	0.46	0.49	0.4801
Danish krone	0.5381	0.5468	0.53	0.55	0.5431
Finnish mark	0.6586	0.6776	0.66	0.70	0.6847
Canadian dollar	2.0977	2.1317	2.06	2.16	2.1102
Australian dollar	2.1598	2.1943	2.10	2.23	2.1710
S. African rand	0.8103	0.8314	0.70	0.82	0.8245
Belgian franc (10)	1.0369	1.0537	1.02	1.97	1.0463
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0276	3.0769	2.96	3.12	3.0585
Italian lira (1000)	1.7026	1.7305	1.69	1.77	1.7199
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.27	4.53	4.2743
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.83	0.89	0.9022
ECU	3.8924	3.9555	—	—	3.9260
Irish punt	4.7452	4.8226	4.67	4.89	4.7831
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3122	2.3498	2.30	2.41	2.3346

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK DISCOUNT

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأجل

Key Representative Rates

		Change
US dollar	NIS 2.9580	-0.34%
Sterling	NIS 4.7815	+0.14%
Mark	NIS 2.1518	+1.32%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	4168.08	+10.37
DJ Transport	1624.33	-11.41
DJ Utils	187.71	+0.08
DJ Comp	1367.3	-1.15
NYSE Industr	344.88	+0.4
NYSE Transport	252.18	-0.25
NYSE Comp	271.32	+0.28
S&P 100	471.5	+1.83
S&P Spot Index	501.44	+0.73
AMEX Comp	485.53	+1.12

NYSE stocks

	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
Share movements	+758	1094	1080

Volume up (in 1000's) 112834

Volume down (in 1000's) 110208

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3143.1	+5.2
Tokyo Nikkei average	15381.2	-758.7
Singapore all-share index	501.08	-3.68
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	8400.44	-187.28
Israel index	134.2	+4.13

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
NYSE / AMEX		
Am Is Pap	40	-1
Ampal A	6.125	-0.25
Aryt	1.0625	-0.125
BioTechnology	2.125	-0.125
Carmel Cont	9	-0.25
Frutarom (electrochem)	3.375	-0.25
Elscint	2	+0.125
Etz Lavud	6.875	-0.125
Etz Lavud A	5.75	0
Laser T.	5.5	-0.125
PEC	28	-0.25
Tadiran	17.375	-0.25
NASDAQ / over-the-counter		
Aladdin	9.6875	-0.1875
4TH. Dimension	4.5	+0
Ampal 4.5	18.25	0
BVR	5.25	0
Converse	14.25	+0.5
Data (Defense)	6	+0.25
ECI	14.875	+0
Edunetics	1.25	+0
Edu-Soft	7.75	-0.375
Electric Fuel	5	+0.0625
EFFI	54.75	+1.25
Elbit	17.75	-1.25
Elron	9	-0.25
Eshed Robotec	0.40625	-0.09375
Fibronix	0.875	0
M. Systems	3.625	+0.125
Gilat	16	-0.25
ISG	1.125	0
Geotek	8.875	+0.625
Health Tech	1.5625	+0
Idan	0.375	0
IIS	2.8125	+0
Indigo	38.5	+0.25
Interpharm	15	0
Isramco	0.78125	+0.15625
First Isr Fund	11	+0
Istek	0.28125	+0
Lasnet	18	-0.5
Lanoptics	8.875	-0.125
Magal	3.4375	-0.125
Medis-Al	1.5	0
Mercury	17	+0.125
Magic	5	+0
Orbotech	12	-0.5
Oshap Tech	3	+0
Rada	3.5	+0
Roboroatics	0.2812	0
Sapiens	3.875	+0
Scitex	18	-0.125
Silicom	4.25	-0.125
T.A.T. Technol	2.0625	-0.0625
Taro Vit	7.375	-0.125
Teledata	6.3125	-0.1875
Telegraph	1.75	+0.0625
Tower Semicond	20	+0.25
Teva	29.75	-0.375
TVG	1.1875	0

(All listings are closing quotes)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 3-APR-95)

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound:	spot	1.6192	-0.0063
	Jun.future (CME)	1.6176	-0.0024
D-mark:	spot	1.3722	+0.0032
	Jun.future (CME)	0.731	+0.002
S-franc:	spot	1.123	-0.003
	Jun.future (CME)	0.8961	+0.0073
Yen:	spot	86.15	-0.85
	Jun.future (CME)	0.011732	+7.5e-005
CanDlr:	spot	1.3982	-0.0013
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7121	-0
AusDlr:	spot	0.7335	-0.0004
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7318	-0.0011
F-franc:	spot	4.8157	+0.0177
It Lira:	spot	1728.5	+30.5
Nlg:	spot	1.5374	+0.0028
AutShlg:	spot	9.695	-0.03
Rand:	spot	3.595	-0.005
ECU:	spot	1.3277	-0.0093
Bonds	future	104.18	+0.21
S and P	future	504.45	+0.05

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	6.3125	+0.0625
Dollar	6 months	6.5	0
Dollar	12 months	6.875	+0.0625
Sterling	3 months	6.6125	0
Sterling	6 months	7.125	0
Sterling	12 months	7.6875	0
S-franc	3 months	3.5	0
S-franc	6 months	3.5625	-0.0625
S-franc	12 months	3.6875	0
D-mark	3 months	4.75	0
D-mark	6 months	4.8125	-0.0312
D-mark	12 months	5.0312	-0.0313
Yen	3 months	1.75	-0.0625
Yen	6 months	1.6875	-0.125
Yen	12 months	1.6875	-0.125

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 3-APR-95)

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options,
Stocks, Bonds
and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St.,
Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826
Fax. 02-244876

INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1306	-2
Coffee (May) (CEC)	165.4	-0.9
Sugar no.11 (May) (CEC)	14.39	+0.11
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	346.75	+2.5
Orange juice (May)(CEC)	105.7	+0.35
Crude oil light (May)(CEC)	19.03	-0.14

London commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	932	-8
Coffee (May) (LCE)	3080	+25
Brent crude oil (May)(IPE)	1739	-11

Spot market metals (US)

		Last	Change
Gold:	spot	391.75	+0
Silver:	spot	5.31	+0.01

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold (Jun)	394.9	+0.8
Silver (May)	5.3	-0.01
Platinum (Jul)	446.1	+2.9
Palladium (Jun.)	175.3	-0.5
High-grade copper (May)	1.394	+0.017

London metal fixes

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	392.25	+5.7
Gold PM fix	392.3	+0.3
Silver fix	530.1	+14.1
Platinum PM fix	442	+7.65

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 3-APR-95)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks · Mortgage Banks & Finance · Financial Institutions · Insurance · Trade & Services · Property, Building & Agriculture · Investment Companies · Industrials · Oil Exploration

PARALLEL LIST: Trade & Services · Property, Building · Industrials · Investment Companies · Oil Exploration

Two-sided trading

AFTERNOON · MORNING

Name · Price · % Change · Volume Shares · Price · % Change · Volume Shares

THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO.

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK · LONDON · PARIS · FRANKFURT

Commstock Trading Ltd.

All indexes decrease 2%

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

RACHEL NEIMAN

Two-Sided Index	Maof Index	Karam Index
158.11 -2.15%	159.49 -2.10%	131.73 -1.94%

IT was another dispiriting day on the TASE, characterized by decreases on both the share and bond markets.

Turnover was moderate at NIS 66.9 million.

Meretz trading opened with excess supply of NIS 34m. on NIS 2m. demand.

The Two-Sided Index declined 1.5% during the morning hours and closed 2.15% lower to 158.11 on NIS 52.3m. turnover.

Most heavily traded were Teva, which was down 1.5% on NIS 2.6m. turnover; Koor, which fell 3.5% on NIS 2.47m. turnover; and Elite, which declined 5% on NIS 2.3m. turnover.

Discount Investments slipped 0.3% on NIS 2m. turnover, Israel Chemicals dropped 2.6% on NIS 2.1m. turnover and Bezek was down 1.2% on NIS 2m. turnover.

The Karam Index slid 1.94% to 131.73 on NIS 7.2m. turnover, with 58% of shares traded at a loss and only 8% trading upwards.

The days' biggest losers were Avner, which fell 10.4%.

Wolfman, Oppenheimer, Paltov, Emek, Gambit, Tosaf, Ampa, Eldan, Yehuda, Trade-Inv, Badash, Ace-Spade and Octava all fell 10%.

The general bond market experienced a sharp 0.09% drop to 139.52, with a similar-sized 0.09% fall on government bonds to 138.89.

Dollar-linked bonds were up 0.38% to 138.86.

FTSE Index closes 5.2 points higher

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) – Shares finished the day marginally ahead in cautious trade despite renewed dollar weakness against the yen and a sharp fall in Japanese shares in Tokyo.

"It's been deathly quiet today," said one analyst. "I thought the FTSE 100 might have perked up after the fall in the NAPM [purchasing managers'] Index figures in the US, but it just drifted sideways."

The FTSE 100 closed 5.2 points up at 3,143.1.

FRANKFURT - The German DAX Index ended at the day's high, holding futures-led gains.

But trading volumes remained minimal, and the market was unsettled by continued dollar weakness.

The DAX Index ended 8.23 points higher at 1,930.82. In post-bourse trade the index closed at 1,934.96.

PARIS - Rallies in the French and German bond markets helped French shares reverse an early decline to close higher.

"Bond markets across the world are stronger," a trader said. French bond prices, underpinned by last week's cuts in German interest rates, rose on data suggesting a slowdown in the pace of US economic growth.

The CAC-40 Index closed up 4.52, or 0.24 percent, at 1,864.00.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended flat after a quiet and futures-led session.

The weak dollar and lower German mark versus the Swiss franc dampened sentiment and depressed activity.

The Broad SPI Index closed 0.40 higher at 1,641.25.

TOKYO - The yen's recent surge to a new record high against the dollar pushed Tokyo stock prices sharply lower, with the key Nikkei average ending down 4.7% at a 31-month low.

The 225-share Nikkei average closed down 758.66 points at 15,381.29, its lowest finish since August 20, 1992.

HONG KONG - Stocks recovered slightly in afternoon trading with the Hang Seng Index crawling back above the 8,400 level.

Trading was quiet and investors worried that the US dollar will continue to test new lows against the yen after the German interest rate cut failed to boost it.

The blue-chip index stood at 8,422.94, down 164.78 points.

SYDNEY - Australian shares closed weaker with the market weighed down by weaker offshore markets, despite the positive performance of the gold sector.

The All Ordinaries Index closed 7.1 points, or 0.37%, lower at 1899.5 and touched an intraday low of 1897.1.

JOHANNESBURG - South African gold shares posted strong gains in reaction to bullion price strength, but industrials ended little changed amid low interest.

The Overall Index was up 44.5 at 5,326.4, industrial index unchanged at 6,655.4 and gold index 65.1 up at 1,534.5.

Good economic news lifts stocks

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) – Stocks ended mostly higher in erratic trading yesterday after some relatively good news about the US economy.

A widely followed survey of manufacturers released yesterday showed American manufacturing expanded in March, but at a slower pace than in previous months.

Earlier, the Commerce Department said Americans' personal income rose 0.5 percent in February, the smallest gain in three months, while spending increased more slowly than it has in nearly a year.

While the income gain was larger than the 0.3 percent analysts predicted, much of the increase was attributed to auto executive bonuses and farm subsidies, analysts said.

Both economic reports suggest a slowdown in the overall economy. Market players were hoping the reports might dissuade the Federal Reserve from increasing interest rates again soon. The Fed has nudged rates higher seven times over the past year hoping to slow the economy and forestall inflation.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 10.72 points to 4,168.41.

Advancing issues narrowly outnumbered declines on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,118 up, 1,077 down and 760 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled 287.36 million shares as of 4 p.m. (2000 GMT), against 352.97 million in the previous session.

The NYSE's composite index rose 0.45 to 271.49, while Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 1.14 to 501.85. The Nasdaq composite index fell 0.31 to 816.90.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4497/00	62.77/80	0.8188/91	3.5075/80
STERLING	2.2224/34	—	139.50/62	1.8193/15	7.7921/26
YEN	1.5924/43	0.7164/72	—	1.3038/60	5.5843/47
SFr	122.03/20	0.5490/97	76.64/6N	—	4.2792/75
FFr	0.2849/53	0.1282/83	17.87/9N	0.2332/37	—

Prices from 23:00 local time

Play ball: Baseball strike ends

Regular season set to start April 26; players must report by Friday

ROSS NEWHAN

CHICAGO

THE longest and costliest work stoppage in professional sports history is over.

Acting baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday major league owners will accept the players' unconditional offer to end a strike that began August 12.

The 1995 season, which had been scheduled to start Sunday night with teams using replacement players, will start April 26. Each team is scheduled to play 144 games, 18 fewer than normal.

Major league players are supposed to begin reporting to their respective training bases tomorrow and must report by Friday.

In West Palm Beach, Florida, outfielder Ryan Klesko was the first Atlanta Brave to show up at training camp yesteday, taking an hour of batting practice wearing sweat pants and a T-shirt.

All but forgotten in the rush to return were the replacement players. On Saturday management's labor lawyers told teams to release the replacements by the end of the day.

Selig said there was no lockout vote taken by the owners during the 4½-hour meeting Sunday. A management source said lawyers continued to warn owners of the legal, financial and public relations risks of a lockout during the meeting, and that the most votes hard-line owners could muster in support of a lockout was 16, five shy of what they needed.

"Bud has prided himself on the owners' unanimity during this mess," the source said, "and he told the owners, 'since enough of you want to play, let's agree to come out of here unanimous (in support of accepting the players' offer).' "

The players made the offer Friday after a federal judge, responding to a petition from the National Labor Relations Board, which has charged the owners with unfair labor practice, ordered a temporary injunction forcing management to restore three key provisions of the expired labor agreement: free agent bidding, salary arbitration and the anti-collusion clause pertaining to free agency.

In a complaint to be heard by an administrative law judge May 22, the NLRB has accused the owners of unilaterally eliminating those mandatory subjects of collective bargaining when they agreed February 6 to withdraw the salary cap system they had implemented December 22 and restore the terms and conditions of the expired contract to avoid sanctions for declaring an illegal impasse before implementing the cap.

Despite Sunday's decision by the owners, management lawyers will still ask the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals for a stay of the injunction order and an expedited appeal today.

If they get the stay, management lawyer Rob Manfred said, "we will have to revisit some of the issues" involved in the players' return "but if the union does not rescind its offer to come in, we'd go ahead and play anyway."

The current conditions are the same as those the players walked out on in August, exercising economic leverage against the possibility of an implemented salary cap and an attempt by the owners to break the union.

The eight-month strike has cost the players more than $200 million in salary and deprived the owners of more than $700 million in revenue. There is still no bargaining agreement, no hint of a settlement and no guarantee the players couldn't strike all over again in August – the owners have not asked for a no-strike pledge.

There is also no assurance the owners won't attempt to declare another impasse – the injunction order requires court approval – and implement a new economic system anchored to a high-rate payroll tax.

"There has been a lot of hurt," Selig said. "There has been a lot of economic damage that has to be repaired, and the best way to start repairing that damage is by putting the focus back on the field.

"The owners are deeply committed to the bargaining process and finding a long-term solution to the economic problems, but they felt, to a club, it was in their best interest to get the players back as expeditiously as possible while continuing to work toward that solution.

For anyone who has been through the last eight months, it should serve as a reminder of our enormous responsibility to never let it occur again."

Said union leader Donald Fehr: "It's ... a step in the right direction. The most important thing now is to get back to the (bargaining) table." (LA Times)

Mac TA beats Hapoel in close-fought playoff derby

STEVE LEIBOWITZ

HAPOEL Tel Aviv lost a chance to even its basketball semifinal playoff series with Maccabi Tel Aviv last night as Meir Tiporo missed an easy layup at the buzzer giving Maccabi a 75-74 victory at Yad Eliyahu.

Tiporo, hero of a regular season derby when he hit a last-second shot, lost his chance to be hero again. He caught the rebound of James Terry's miss from the corner but failed to put it in over the arms of Yisrael Elimelech as the clock ran out.

The victory gives defending champion Maccabi Tel Aviv a solid 2-0 lead in its best-of-five-series. It was the 100th derby win for Maccabi against only 10 losses to their cross-town rivals.

As in Game 1, Maccabi jumped to an early lead. A Hapoel spurt tied the game 11-all forcing coach Muli Katzurin to call time out.

When play resumed Hapoel continued to surge as Milton Wagner and Buck Johnson each had hot hands against man-to-man defense. Maccabi was dealt a tough blow as center Radisav Churcic picked up his third and fourth fouls with the game less than 10 minutes old. Little-used Jeff Kent was brought on to fill Churcic's large shoes, swelled even larger by a nagging ankle injury. Maccabi turnovers added to its woes as Hapoel jumped to a 24-16 advantage and Maccabi was forced to call time once again.

This time it was Hapoel that got into foul trouble as Ofer Fleisher and Johnson each picked up their third. Maccabi's ineffective offense was finally able to get untracked and move the ball inside, cutting Hapoel's lead to 36-34 at the half.

Maccabi came out with a flurry after intermission as Kent, Norris Coleman and Guy Goodes each scored and were fouled as the champions grabbed a 40-36 lead, their first since the opening minutes of the game. But Wagner and Johnson fought back to even the score 47-47. Then Johnson picked up his fourth foul and had to replaced.

Coleman took advantage of this as Maccabi jumped back ahead 55-50. Coach Yair Sharon had no choice but to put Johnson back in. The stratagem worked as Johnson avoided fouling out and kept the game close heading down the stretch.

With five minutes left, Kent hit a key three-pointer giving his club a 73-67 advantage. Kent then fouled out, finishing with 11 points and a solid performance off the bench.

Maccabi lapsed on defense and a Johnson slam dunk brought the lead down to 73-72 with two minutes to play. A questionable call by the referee gave Wagner his fifth foul and Hapoel missed him the rest of the way.

Maccabi missed a chance to put the game away but turned the ball over and a Hapoel breakaway gave Terry the chance to tie the score 74-74 with 38 seconds left. Maccabi worked down the clock and Lior Ardetti was called for fouling Goodes with only seven seconds to go. Goodes missed the first but made his second free throw as Maccabi regained the lead 75-74. This set up Hapoel's last gasp at victory.

Johnson finished with 27 points and Wagner 25 for Hapoel. Motti Daniel topped Maccabi with 17; Coleman had 15 and Doron Jamchee only 10 for the victors.

Game 2 should have been played at the home court of Hapoel, instead the cash-strapped sports club chose the larger Yad Eliyahu giving Maccabi the decisive home advantage.

Has anyone seen my good friend Michael?

SPORTSWATCH

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

STOP ME before I hit "record" again!

What with the NCAA finals, the Israeli Basketball League Final Four, British soccer, local soccer, Israel-France, etc., it would be no surprise if VCR's around the country start waving the white flag out of sheer overuse. Only one thing's been seriously missing from the sports-swept TV scene lately: up-to-date NBA games.

The NBA is at the height of the regular season, Michael Jordan is back, and playoff spots are being determined. But you wouldn't know it from scanning the local dial, except for the Thursday night games being shown live on Prime Sport, and games from months ago shown on Jordan TV and Middle East TV.

Israel Television announced recently that it would soon start showing NBA games on Saturday afternoons on its cable Channel Three (33 on the cable dial), and perhaps on Channel One during the playoffs, but so far none have materialized.

And what about NBC's live Sunday afternoon games, which could be shown here during prime time and would likely draw a good audience? Moreover, why has Sports Channel cut its NBA offerings almost completely, from a taped game or two a week to almost nothing?

It's time the NBA find a local Israeli station willing to broadcast games more regularly and award *them* the local rights to show Michael, Shaquille & Co. Not showing more NBA action at this time of the year is enough to turn serious hoop fans into basket cases.

SPORTS Channel's coverage of Sunday night's Holon-Galil game was quite good, especially the fine use of replays, which at times went too far and deprived us of a bit of live action.

It was a wise move to offer highlights of the season series between the two teams before the game, but the TV timeouts before the actual game starts so that Sports Channel can plug itself and sister cable channels are unnecessary. Get on with the game, fellas. Also, the game clock should be shown more frequently and more clearly.

Rami Weitz's play-by-play still tends to be a bit too ping-pongish ("Thirdkill...Steinhauer...Thirdkill...Gordon") but he's getting better, although we could do without the obvious, as when red-hot Erez Hazan finally missed a shot and Weitz commented: "I'm sure no one in Galil is mad at him." No kidding.

Opher Shelach's analysis was, as usual, excellent, especially when he noted that Holon's bad shot selection may not have counted as a turnover, but hurt the team just the same. And yes, Opher, we'll excuse the orgasmic noises you made after some of Galil Elyon's fine play. To a real basketball fan, watching a good fast break *is* sometimes almost as satisfying as good sex.

Sports Channel should also not bother showing us team huddles during timeouts if the volume of the music in the gym makes it impossible to hear what anyone's saying. Overall, though, it was a good show whose high standards will hopefully be maintained throughout the playoffs.

SPEAKING of music volume, someone should tell the folks who produce Super Channel's NHL International Weekly, a review of the week's hockey action, to turn the background music down on their club-by-club reports at the beginning of the show.

Someone should also tell Super Channel to include the program in its listings. While we've seen it listed for Saturday afternoons, it turned up Sunday night at 7:30, and local hockey fans should catch it.

The highlights are fine, although the narrative tends to get drowned out by that silly music. The program also features a shortened version of a Game of the Week, focusing on the goals scored, and should be required viewing for those who like their sports action on ice.

IF Sports Channel really wants to save some money so it can bring us the NCAA finals live next year and those NBA broadcasts, they could start by booting *Thai Quay* off the air. No, that's not a new product for getting rid of cellulite – it's the Thai kickboxing program, where an auditorium-full of crazed, bloodthirsty Thai fans cheers every knee to the midsection and foot to the face thrown by their young gladiators.

Several years ago, MK Avraham Burg led a campaign to get professional wrestling taken off the air because it was believed to inspire "copy cat" matches between young Hulk Hogan wannabes.

Strangely enough, *Thai Quay*, which features *real* blows in an atmosphere glorifying the even more dangerous collection of punches, kicks and knee-lifts, hasn't attracted any outcry. I guess Burg & Co. were also concerned Israeli kids would start to *dress up* like wrestler "Boy Toy" Sean Michaels; the Thai boys just wear simple boxing trunks.

Thai Quay makes its slightly more mannered cousin *Bushido* look like a debutante's ball by comparison. I'm sure there are those out there who delight in seeing some poor Thai kid – who the announcers said usually come from very poor families – being exploited by Thai match-makers in a chops-kicking competition.

While kick-boxing may be a legitimate sport, it's certainly one this sports fan can live without, especially the Thai version. Let the Bangkok buzzards enjoy their bread and circuses – Sports Channel should throw *Thai Quay* over the ropes, and use the money for much better purposes.

Seles's attacker escapes jail

HAMBURG (Reuter) – The man who stabbed Monica Seles at a tennis tournament two years ago walked free yesterday after a German court declined to overturn his original suspended sentence.

Guenter Parche, the east German lathe operator who halted the former world number one's career by plunging a kitchen knife into her back at the 1993 Hamburg Open, escaped jail via the ruling.

Judge Gertraut Goering said an appeal was possible within one week.

The court's decision was a setback for Seles, whose attorney had demanded the court throw out Parche's original two-year suspended sentence for causing grievous bodily harm and instead send him to jail for five years for attempted murder.

Hamburg prosecutors had also appealed the original sentence, which caused an international outcry. They had asked for a 33-month jail term.

Parche, now 41, said at the time he wanted to wound Seles out of love for her German rival, Steffi Graf.

His lawyer had called on the court to confirm the earlier sentence, saying Parche suffered from depression and a personality disorder but had not tried to kill Seles.

Seles, who has not played competitive tennis since the stabbing, suffers nightmares about being attacked again and feels like a bird trapped in a cage, her American psychologist had testified.

Mac TA, Mac Haifa play State Cup 'premature final'

ORI LEWIS

HOLDERS Maccabi Tel Aviv and National League champions, Maccabi Haifa will be the feature of this afternoon's State Cup action in a match that promises to provide lots of thrills and spills for an expected crowd of 25,000.

The match has been dubbed the "premature final," simply because the two clubs are the best in the league, but they were drawn to meet at the last-16 stage last month.

Interestingly, both clubs met in the quarter-finals of the competition last year with the Tel Avivians eventually going on to win the Cup in a season in which Haifa dominated the league.

This evening's encounter is the second match of a doubleheader at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan, the earlier match which begins at 16:30 will be between hosts Maccabi Petah Tikva and Betar Jerusalem.

Matches in the State Cup are on a knockout basis, with extra time and a penalty shootout being implemented if necessary.

Today's other State Cup last-16 round matches (all kickoffs at 16:00 unless stated):

Hapoel Petah Tikva v Hapoel Tel Aviv; Bnei Yehuda v Ironi Rishon; Maccabi Netanya v Maccabi Herzliya; Hapoel Haifa v Hapoel Ramat Gan, 17:00; Hapoel Beersheba v Hapoel Kfar Sava, 18:00; Ironi Ashdod v Hapoel Beit Shean 19:30.

Only two Second Division clubs remain in the competition – Hapoel Ramat Gan and Hapoel Kfar Sava – and both will have a tough time trying to advance to the quarter-final stage. Ramat Gan is away to Hapoel Haifa at Kiryat Eliezer and Kfar Sava plays in Beersheba.

Today's matches will be covered live on the IBA Radio 2 *Songs and Goals* program beginning at 16:00, Channel 2 will screen a roundup of the action at 23:20.

SCOREBOARD

NBA – Sunday's results: Detroit 110, Washington 105; New York 94, New Jersey 85; San Antonio 109, Phoenix 106; Indiana 104, Portland 93; Boston 94, Dallas 87; Seattle 105, Atlanta 83; Charlotte 105, Miami 92; Denver 104, Cleveland 101; L.A. Lakers 119, Orlando 112.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL – The University of Connecticut won the NCAA final with a 70-64 victory over Tennessee on Sunday.

NHL – Sunday's results: Quebec 7, Ottawa 5; Florida 4, Tampa Bay 1; Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 2; Washington 2, Boston 1; St. Louis 3, Detroit 3; Dallas 2, Chicago 1; Anaheim 5, San Jose 4.

CRICKET – Australia beat West Indies by 10 wickets on the third day of the first Test match on Sunday in Bridgetown, Barbados. Scores: West Indies 195 and 189. Australia 346 and 39-0. Australia leads the four Test series 1-0.

FOOTBALL – Thirty-three-year-old Herscel Walker Walker signed a 3-year, $4.8 million contract with the New York Giants yesterday, less than a week after being released by the Philadelphia Eagles.

The deal includes a $1.8 million signing bonus and a $500,000 contract for this season, sources close to Walker said.

He will be paid $1.1 million next season and $1.4 in 1997.

Quality Classifieds

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS – All rates include VAT:.
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Tel Aviv and Haifa- weekdays – 12 noon, 2 days before publicationfor Friday and Sunday – 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

GENERAL

DWELLINGS

WHERE TO STAY

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DWELLINGS

SALES

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d5-1750/p

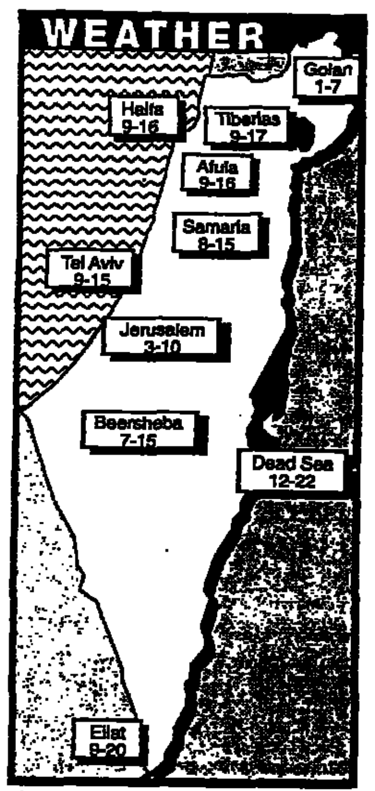
هكذا من الأصل

April 4, 1995 The Jerusalem P

ats Hapoel in playoff derby

T.A. Mac Haifa play up 'premature final'

WEATHER



Forecast: Lighter rain. Temperatures still lower than seasonal norms.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW		HIGH		
	C	F	C	F	
Amsterdam	06	46	17	63	ptcloudy
Berlin	07	45	12	54	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	64	28	82	ptcloudy
Cairo	11	52	19	66	cloudy
Chicago	10	50	13	55	cloudy
Copenhagen	04	39	08	46	rain
Frankfurt	08	46	20	68	clear
Geneva	05	41	20	68	clear
Helsinki	-06	21	04	39	cloudy
Hong Kong	15	59	17	63	cloudy
Jo'burg	10	50	23	73	clear
Lisbon	11	52	25	77	clear
London	09	48	19	66	cloudy
Los Angeles	14	57	23	73	clear
Madrid	10	50	27	81	clear
Montreal	-06	20	07	44	clear
Moscow	-01	30	06	43	snow
New York	01	34	09	48	rain
Paris	05	41	18	64	clear
Rome	09	48	21	70	cloudy
Stockholm	-01	30	08	46	clear
Sydney	13	55	31	88	clear
Tokyo	06	43	13	55	clear
Toronto	-01	30	07	45	ptcloudy
Vienna	07	45	18	64	clear

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS25.74 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS491.40 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the *Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily* Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882819.

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TEL AVIV

Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. 16th-19th Cent. European Art◇Impressionism, Post-Impressionism◇The School of Paris◇The Moshe and Sara Mayer Coll.◇Sculpture◇20th cent. Modern Masters - Mizne-Blumental Coll.◇Israeli Art - A Historic Presentation-◇From New Horizons Onward. Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **Art Education Center**, Tel. 6919155/6/7.

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HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 869744; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.
Tel Aviv: *Hakirya*, 19 Ibn Gvirol, 204650; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730. Till 3 a.m. Wednesday: Ben-Yehuda, 142 Ben-Yehuda, 5223535. *Till midnight:* Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 6413730.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Magdiel, 54 Derech Magdiel, Hod Hasharon, 915567.
Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 822842.
Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simtat Modi'in, Kiryat Motzkin, 707770/3.
Haifa: Kiryat Eliezer, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 511707.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (orthopedics, pediatrics, ophthalmology). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital.
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE	**100**
FIRE	**102**
FIRST AID	**101**

Magen David Adom

In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 551333	Karmiel* 988555
Ashkelon 551332	Kfar Sava* 902222
Bat Yam* 5511111	Kiron 9311111
Beersheba* 274767	K. Shmona* 944334
Beit Shemesh 523133	Nahariya* 912333
Dan Region* 5783333	Netanya* 623333
Eilat* 372333	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Hadera* 09-623333	Rehovot* 451333
Haifa* 512233	Rishon* 9642333
Hatzor* 920333	Safed 920333
Holon* 5511111	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Jerusalem* 523133	Tiberias* 790111

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110

Eran – Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 610303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 6961113), Haifa 672222, Beersheba 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9988770, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 346789.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-514111, 03-5461133 (also in Russian), 07-376310, 08-550506 (also in Amharic).

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 514455, Haifa 660111, Eilat 31977.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-529205, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

Budapest is being transplanted to Jerusalem for a week-long series of cultural events.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

THE Six Day War made him a hero. The Yom Kippur War turned him into a pariah six years later. Hillel Mittelpunkt's *Gorodish* explores his countrymen's journey from arrogant euphoria to bewildered disillusionment through the life of Maj.-Gen. Shmuel (Gorodish) Gonen.

The title role is authoritatively played by Igal Naor, but it's Avi Kushnir's brilliant portrayal of Epstein (Gorodish's friend and sidekick) that walks away with the show. On the Cameri Theater main stage tonight at 8:30. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English.)

ENTERTAINMENT

HELEN KAYE

BUDAPEST in Jerusalem Week kicks off with a gala evening featuring The Budapest Contemporary Dance Theater, the Ferenc Erkel Folklore Troupe and classical music with soprano Veronika Kincses and others. Tonight in the Jerusalem Theater's Rebecca Crown Hall at 9.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE second stage of the Eighth Arthur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition concludes today at the Tel Aviv Museum. The two final sessions feature Japanese pianist Susumu Aoyagi, Germany's Igor Kamenz and Croatia's Dalia Golubich in the morning session (from 9) and Korean Eun Joo Chung and local pianist Ohad Ben-Ari in the afternoon (from 4). Each artist will perform a 70-minute free-choice recital.

After the last session the jury will announce the names of the six pianists who will advance to the semifinal stage.

TELEVISION

PENNY STARR

CHANNEL 3's new look Tuesday is a laugh a minute. It's comedy night, starting at 10 with brand-new episodes of *Married with Children*, starring America's most obnoxious family, the Bundys.

That's followed at 10:25 by the new season of *Seinfeld*. Straight after Jerry and friends you can join Murphy and her friends. The new series of *Murphy Brown*, starring Candice Bergin, begins at 10:50.

And if you still have an appetite for comedy, tune to Channel 1 as Shmuel Vilozhny gives us a taste of his own brand of humor at 11:15.

CINEMA

JERUSALEM

CINEMATHEQUE La Chambre Verte 5, 9:30 ★ Aux Sources du Comique Francais 7 ★ The Strategy of the Snail 9:30 G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 788448 Star Trek - Generations 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ Leon 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:15,7, 9:45★ Nell 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Little Giants 5, 7:15 ★ Nobody's Fool 5, 7:30, 9:45 JERUSALEM THEATER The Silences of the Palace 7 ★ Immortal Beloved 9:30 ORION ☎ 252914 The River Wild•Natural Born Killers•The Browning Version•Love Affair•Terminal Verlocity 5, 7:30, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Legends of the Fall 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Pret a Porter 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Quiz Show 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Little Women 5, 7:15, 9:45 RON 1-2 ☎ 234704 1 Rabbi Akiva St. Sh'chur 5, 7:30, 9:45 SEMADAR Far Away, So Close 7, 9:30

TEL AVIV

DIZENGOFF 1-3 ☎ 200485 Dizengoff Center Into the West 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30 ★ Reservoir Dogs 9:45 ★ Burnt by the Sun 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ Far Away, So Close 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:45 DRIVE IN The River Wild 10 ★ Sex Film 12 midnight GAN HA'IR Priscilia 5, 7:30, 9:45 GAT The Quiz Show 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GORDON Essence of Green Papaya 6, 8 ★ Citizen Kane 10 G.G. HOD 1–4 ☎ 5226090 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Forrest Gump 1:30,4:30, 7:15,10 ★ Nobody's Fool 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Little Giants 1:30, 5, 7:30 LEV 1-4 ☎ 5288288 Shawshank Redemption 11:30 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Lifetimes 11:45, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Naked 2 ★ The Browning Version 12, 5, 7:30 ★ Sh'chur 2, 10 ★ Leon 12, 2, 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-CHEN☎ 5282288* Dizengoff Center Legends of the Fall 2, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Terminal Velocity 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Pulp Fiction 1:15, 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ The Last Seduction 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674* Opera House Pulp Fiction 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Little Women 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Pret a Porter 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Serial Mom 5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. SHAHAF 1-2 Nell 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7:15, 10 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 ☎ 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi St. Natural Born Killers 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Priscilla•Love Affair 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. Disclosure 7:15, 10 ★ Drop Zone•Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM ☎ 6961297 27 Shaul Hamelekh Boulevard The Snapper 5, 7:45, 10 ZAFON Immortal Beloved 5, 7:30, 9:45

HAIFA

CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 325755 Lifetimes 7, 9:15 ★ Junior 7:15 ★ The Browning Version 9:15 ★ Into the West 5:15, 7:15 ATZMON 1-5 ☎ 673003 Star Trek – Generations•Nell•Drop Zone•Love Affair•Nobody's Fool 4:30, 7, 9:15 CINEMA CAFÉ MORIAH ☎ 242477 Leon 7:30, 9:30 ORLY Shawshank Redemption 6:30, 9:15 PANORAMA 1-3 ☎ 382020 Forrest Gump 4:15, 6:45, 9:30 ★ Immortal Beloved 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Disclosure 6:45, 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 674311 Legends of the Fall 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 ★ Dumb and Dumber 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 416899/8 Pulp Fiction 4, 6:30, 9:30 ★ Shawshank Redemption 6:30, 9:15 ★ Pret a Porter 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 ★ Legends of the Fall 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 ★ Little Women 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Dumb and Dumber 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ The Quiz Show 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 246553 Pulp Fiction 6:30, 9:15 ★ Little Women 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Angels 4:15 ★ Pret a Porter 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

ARAD

STAR Milk Money 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Last Seduction 9:30 ★ The Lion King (Hebrew dialogue) 7:30 ★ The Quiz Show 7:15, 9:45

ASHDOD

G.G. GIL Pulp Fiction 7, 10 ★ Milk Money 5, 7:30 ★ Forrest Gump 7:15, 10 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:30 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:30 ★ Nell 10 ★ Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Thumbelina 5 G.G. ORI 1-3 Legends of the Fall 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:30, 7:15, 10

ASHKELON

G.G. GIL Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Forrest Gump 10 ★ Milk Money 5, 7:30 ★ Nell 5, 7:30, 10 RAV CHEN 1-5 ☎ 711223 Pret a Porter 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Legends of the Fall 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Lion King (English dialogue) 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 9:45

BAT YAM

RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 Pulp Fiction 7, 9:45 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Legends of the Fall 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:15, 7, 9:45

BEERSHEBA

G.G. GIL Star Trek – Generations•Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Nell 10 ★ Drop Zone 7:30 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7:15, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎ 235278 Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Legends of the Fall 9:45 ★ Little Women 5, 7:15 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 9:45

DIMONA

MOFET Baby's Day Out 8

HADERA

LEV 1-4 ☎ Legends of the Fall 7, 9:30 ★ Dumb and Dumber 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Little Giants 4:30 ★ Pulp Fiction 7, 9:45 ★ Leon 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Lion King 4:30

HERZLIYA

COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANDARIN) ☎ 6902666 The Quiz Show•Lifetimes 7:30, 10 DANIEL HOTEL ☎ 544044 THE AUDITORIUM Forrest Gump 7, 9:45 STAR☎ 589068 29 Sokolov St. Dumb and Dumber 7:30, 9:45 ★ Nell 7:30, 9:45 ★ Star Trek – Generations 7:30, 9:45

KARMIEL

CINEMA 1–3 ☎ 887277 Forrest Gump 6:30, 9:15 ★ Dumb and Dumber•The Last seduction 7, 9:30

KFAR SAVA

G.G. GIL Star Trek – Generations•Dumb and Dumber 7, 10 ★ Little Giants 5 ★ Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Nell 10 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:30

KIRYAT BIALIK

G.G. KIRYON 1-9 ☎ 779166 Nell 7, 9:30 ★ Leon 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Shawshank Redemption 7, 9:30 ★ Angels 4:45 ★ Star Trek – Generations 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Drop Zone 7, 9:30 ★ Forrest Gump•Pulp Fiction 7, 9:30 ★ The Lion King 4:45 ★ Milk Money 7, 9:30 ★ Little Giants 4:45, 7 ★ Baby's Day Out 4:45 ★ Junior 4:45 ★ Free Willy 4:45

KIRYAT ONO

MATNAS Pulp Fiction 8

LOD

STAR Legends of the Fall•Nell 7:15, 9:45 ★ Ricochet 7:15, 9:30

NAHARIYA

HECHAL HATARBUT Disclosure 7, 9:15

NESS ZIONA

G.G. GIL 1-4 Drop Zone•Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Leon•Nell 5, 7:30, 10

NETANYA

G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 Star Trek – Generations•Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:30, 7, 10 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ Drop Zone 5, 7:30 ★ Nell 10 RAV-CHEN 1-4 ☎ 618570 Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Legends of the Fall 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Little Women 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Pret a Porter 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

OR YEHUDA

G.G. GIL Drop Zone•Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Milk Money 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7:15, 10

PETAH TIKVA

G.G. HECHAL 1-3 ☎ 9300844 Drop Zone 7:30 ★ Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Leon 5, 10 G. G. RAM 1-3 ☎ 9340818 Forrest Gump•Legends of the Fall 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ Nell 5, 7:30, 10

RA'ANANA

PARK Little Women 5, 7:30 ★ Dumb and Dumber•Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Shawshank Redemption 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Legends of the Fall 10

RAMAT GAN

RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 797121 Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Pret a Porter 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Little Women 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Nobody's Fool 5, 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 Legends of the Fall 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber 5,7:30, 9:45 ★ Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 9:45

RAMAT HASHARON

KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 Burnt By the Sun 7, 9:30

REHOVOT

CHEN 1–4 ☎ 465979 Shawshank Redemption•Legends of the Fall 7, 9:45 ★ Dumb and Dumber•Leon 7:15, 9:45

RISHON LEZION

HAZAHAV Leon 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Nobody's Fool 7:30, 10 ★ Little Giants 5 ★ Star Trek – Generations 5, 7:30, 10RAV CHEN Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Pret a Porter 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Legends of the Fall 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Little Women 5, 7:15, 9:45

RISHON NEW IND. AREA

GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619669 Drop Zone•Dumb and Dumber 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Forrest Gump 4:15, 7:15, 10 ★ Shawshank Redemption 4:15, 7:15, 10★ Pulp Fiction 10 ★ Milk Money 5, 7:30 STAR 1-4 ☎ 9619985-7 27 Lishinsky St. Nell 7:15, 10 ★ Little Women 7:30 ★ Legends of the Fall•The Quiz Show 7:15, 10 ★ The Last Seduction 10

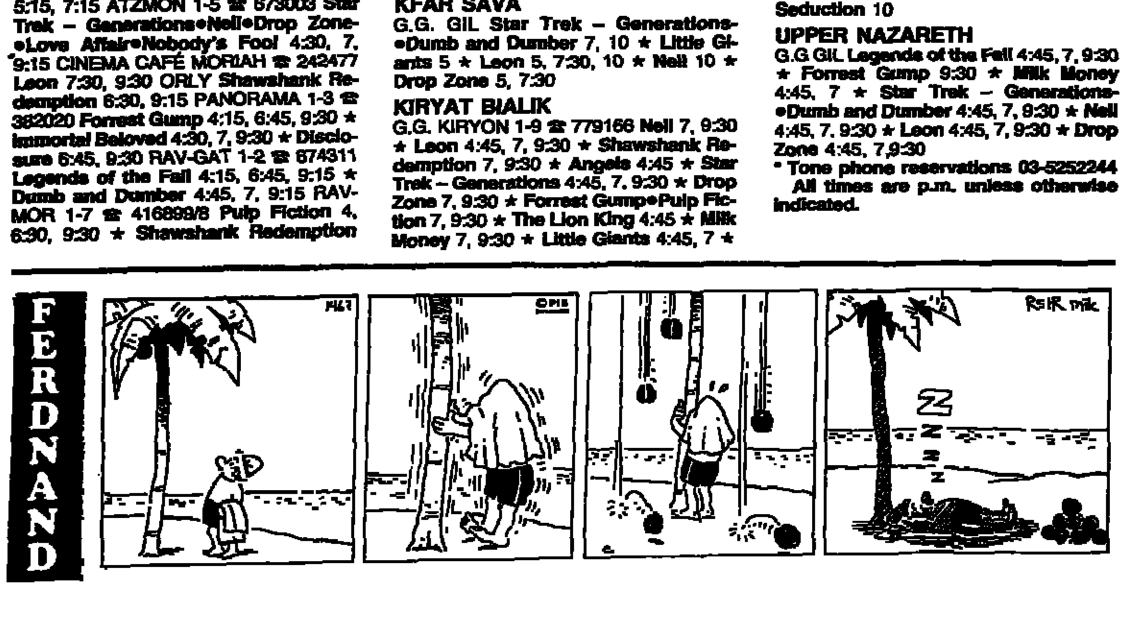
UPPER NAZARETH

G.G GIL Legends of the Fall 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Forrest Gump 9:30 ★ Milk Money 4:45, 7 ★ Star Trek – Generations•Dumb and Dumber 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Nell 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Leon 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Drop Zone 4:45, 7,9:30

* Tone phone reservations 03-5252244

All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

FERDINAND



TELEVISION

■ CHANNEL 1

6:30 News in Arabic **6:45** Cartoons **7:00** Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Shakespearean theater **8:30** Reading Comprehension **9:00** Arithmetic **9:15** Arithmetic **9:25** Story Time **9:40** Arabic stories **10:00** Family Relations **10:30** Society **11:00** Science and Technology **11:20** Science **11:35** English **12:00** Israeli geography **12:20** Science **12:45** Literature of the World **13:15** Color, Color, Color **13:30** Molière's theater **14:00** Cartoon **14:15** Bananas in Pyjamas **14:20** Cartoon **14:30** Animal stories **14:45** Keep fit **15:00** Children's current-affairs program

■ CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tom and Jerry **16:00** Zap to One **16:55** Hebrew language corner **17:00** A New Evening **17:35** Kids' Court **18:00** Garfield **18:15** News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropos **19:00** News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 Hashmalit – video-clip magazine **20:00** Mabat **20:55** Live broadcast of Lotto results **21:00** Hahamishia Hakamerit – local satire **21:30** A Second Look – investigative program **22:30** Thicker than Water – New three-part BBC suspense drama starring Theresa Russell and Jonathan Pryce **23:15** Comic interlude – Shmuel Vilozhny **23:30** News magazine

■ CHANNEL 2

14:00 Zehu Zeh (rpt) **15:00** Lunch Break – Israeli music, old and new **16:00** The National Youth Bible Quiz **17:00** Reshef at Five **17:05** Bible Quiz – continued **18:00** Power Rangers – adventure **18:30** Paradise Beach **19:30** Who's the Boss **20:00** News **20:30** Wheel of Fortune **22:20** Gabi Gazit **23:20** The 91st minute – round-up for the soccer State Cup **23:50** NYPD Blue **00:00** News **00:05** NYPD Blue (continued) **00:45** The Circus (1928) – Charlie Chaplin wrote, produced, directed and stars in the story of a man who accidentally joins a traveling circus, where he finds love

■ JORDAN TV

20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful **21:30** Desmond's – comedy **22:10** Documentary: The Nature of Things **23:00** News in English **23:20** Seaforth – family saga spanning 50 years and three generations (part 2) **00:10** Lonesome Dove (mini series)

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

15:00 700 Club **15:55** Film: Mr. Kingstreet's War – Ivory poachers in the central African paradise **17:30** Mighty Mouse **17:55** Jonny Quest **18:20** Dangermouse **18:45** Flying House **19:10** Documentary **20:10** Magnum P.I. **21:00** World News Tonight (Arabic) **21:30** CNN Headline News **22:00** America's Funniest Home Videos **22:30** Star Trek: The Next Generation **23:30** Babylon 5 **00:10** 700 Club **01:00** Film: Mr. Kingstreet's War

CABLE

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Roxanne **9:00** One Life to Live **9:45** The Young and the Restless **10:30** Guests in the Living Room **11:00** All in the Family **11:25** Celeste **12:10** Neighbors **12:30** Perry Mason **13:20** Hanging with Mr. Cooper **13:45** Israeli Clips **14:00** Cagney and Lacey **14:50** Roxanne **15:40** Knots Landing **16:30** Neighbors **16:55** Love Boat **17:45** Israeli Clips **18:00** One Life to Live **18:45** The Young and the Restless **19:30** Local broadcast **20:00** Celeste **20:50** Family Fortunes **21:20** Nostalgush **21:30** Kolbodak **22:00** Married with Children **22:25** Seinfeld **22:50** Murphy Brown **23:20** Valley of the Dolls **23:50** Perry Mason **00:40** Hunter **1:30** Lou Grant

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Rosalie Goes Shopping (1990) (rpt) **12:05** Loving You (1957) (rpt) **13:50** Stuck with Each Other (1989) (rpt) **15:30** Cinema Paradiso (1989) (rpt) **17:30** Honeymoon in Vegas (1992) (rpt) **19:10** FX II (1991) (rpt) **21:00** Death Wish III (1985) – Charles Bronson plays a lone vigilante fighting crime on the streets of New York. Directed by Michael Winner (86 mins) **22:30** New Jack City (1991) – black mafia is turning Harlem into a factory for crack till two cops move in **00:10** Have a Nice Night (1990) (rpt) **1:45** The Good Father (1987) (rpt)

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons **9:00** Cartoons **9:35** The Chipmunks **10:00** Little Devils **10:35** Shira **11:05** Family Ties **11:40** Little House on the Prairie **12:40** Loony Toons **13:00** Cartoons **13:35** Mighty Max **14:00** Casper **14:35** Once Upon a Time **15:05** Shira **15:35** Saved by the Bell **16:00** Flying Classroom **16:10** Lois and Clark **17:10** Loony Toons **17:30** Eek the Cat **17:45** Hugo **18:05** Chipmunks **18:30** Little Devils **19:00** Cartoons **19:30** Three's Company **20:00** Married with Children **20:30** Family Matters **21:00** I Love Lucy **21:30** Dear John

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Peppermint Frappe (1968) – a doctor in love with his brother's wife tries to turn his nurse at the clinic into her likeness. With Jose Luis Vasquez and Geraldine Chaplin (89 mins) **23:35** Spellbound (1945) – Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller stars Gregory Peck as a mental patient with amnesia who is accused of murder. Ingrid Bergman is the doctor who falls in love with him and tries to help him. Dream sequence by Salvador Dali (110 mins)

■ DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University: History **12:00** Great Castles of Europe **12:30** Treasure Islands **13:00** Keen as Mustard **14:00** Open University **16:00** Great Castles of Europe **16:30** Treasure Islands **17:00** Keen as Mustard **18:00** Open University **20:00** Beyond 2000 **21:00** World of the Unborn **22:00** How the West was Won **23:00** Beyond 2000 **23:45** Open University

■ SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Equal Time **7:00** NBC News **7:00** ITN World News **7:15** US Market Wrap **7:30** Business Insiders **8:00** Today featuring ITN World News and FT Business **10:00** Super Shop **11:00** European Money Wheel **15:00** Business Insiders **15:30** Inside Edition **16:00** US Money Wheel **18:30** FT Business Tonight **19:00** Today **20:00** ITN World News Live **20:30** Executive Lifestyles **21:00** Entertainment X-Press **21:30** Dateline **22:30** Inside Edition **23:00** ITN World News Live **23:30** The Tonight Show with Jay Leno **00:30** Real Personal **1:00** FT Business Tonight **1:30** Nightly News with Tom Brokaw

■ STAR PLUS

6:00 Wind in the Willows **6:30** Playabout **7:00** The Sullivans **7:30** Yan Can Cook **8:00** E! Features **8:30** Donahue **9:30** Santa Barbara **10:30** The Bold and the Beautiful **11:00** Oprah Winfrey **12:00** Riviera **12:30** Yan Can Cook **13:00** Aerobics **13:30** The Sullivans **14:00** Small Wonder **14:30** Robotech **15:00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles **15:30** Batman **16:00** Home and Away **16:30** Neighbors **17:00** M*A*S*H **17:30** Flying Doctors **18:30** The Bill **19:00** Nikki Tonight **19:30** The Bold and the Beautiful **20:00** Santa Barbara **21:00** Star Trek **22:00** Baywatch **23:00** E! TV **23:30** Neighbors **00:00** Movie: Situation Normal

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Musical Matinee **9:05** Arthur Rubinstein Competition – live broadcast from Tel Aviv Museum of third day of second stage ±**13:15** Michala Petri, recorder – works by Ibert, Jacob, Grieg and others **14:06** Encore **15:00** From the Recording Studio – Isidoro Roitman (lute), Ofira Zakai (lute). Selection of works from the late Renaissance in Italy and England by Dowland, Josquin des Pres, Galilei and others **16:00** Arthur Rubinstein Competition – live broadcast from Tel Aviv Museum of third day of second stage ±**18:30** John Blow: Venus and Adonis, a Masque for the Entertainment of the King; Purcell: Dido and Aeneas; Sonata for Three **21:05** Berlioz: Roman Carnival overture; Luigi Otto: Trumptet concerto in E flat;Haydn: Cello concerto in C **22:00** A Musical Journey

■ RADIO 1

6:06 Hebrew songs **7:00** News in English **7:15** News in French **7:30** Hebrew songs **8:05** Morning Magazine **12:05** Land of Israel **13:00** News and program in English **13:30** News and program in French **14:05** Storytelling **15:05** Youth program **16:05** Dial **17:00** News in English **17:02** News in French **17:05** Voice of the Arts **18:05** Religious programs **20:00** Storytelling **20:15** Hazanut **22:05** Concepts **23:05** Hebrew songs

■ RADIO 2

6:06 This Morning – news **8:05** Another Matter **10:05** It's All Talk **12:05** Midday – news, commentary, music **14:05** Magic Moments **15:05** Foreign Affairs **15:45** Foreign Press **16:05** The Color of Money **17:05** Five After the News **18:05** Today – newsreel **19:05** Social Hour **20:00** Evening news – TV broadcast **20:30** Hebrew songs **21:05** Matters which haven't hit the headlines **23:05** News and music **00:05** Midnight Magazine **00:15** News and music, continued **1:05** Tuesday Night Club **5:05** First Light

■ RADIO 3

Music all day and night

■ REKA

18:00 News in English **18:15** News in French **20:00** News in Russian

■ ARMY RADIO

5:02 Good Morning IDF **6:05** University of the Air – Perception of Man in Nazi Ideology **6:30** Good Morning Israel **7:07** Seven-O-Seven **8:00** Good Morning Israel **9:05** Morning Music **10:05** Right Now **12:50** Today's Entertainment **13:00** Midday News **13:15** It's Uncertain **15:05** Someone to Talk To **16:00** An Hour Before **17:00** Good Evening Israel **18:05** Economics **18:30** Eavesdropping **20:00** Channel 2 news **20:30** The Heart of the Matter **21:05** Program with Dubi Lentz **22:05** Vitamins **23:05** This Was the Day **00:10** Night Birds **2:00** We Don't Want to Sleep

■ ARMY ON WHEELS

7:05 The State on the Way **9:05** Songs **10:05** Sun **12:05** Air Conditioning **13:05** Something for the Road **14:05** Showers **16:05** Driving Wisely **18:05** Program with Lea Oz **20:05** Below the Belt **22:05** Good Night

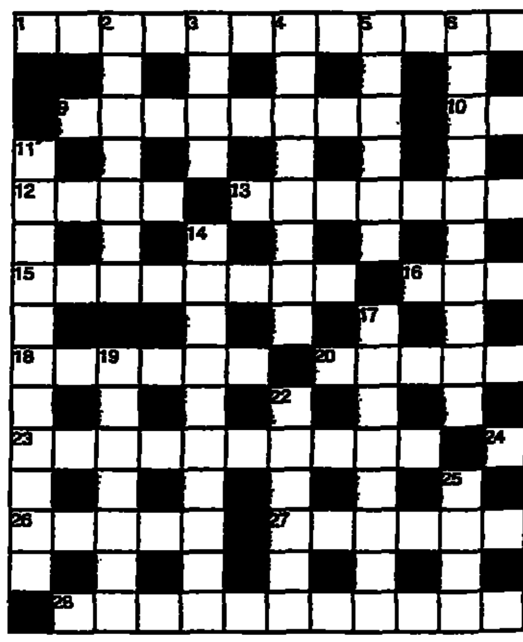
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

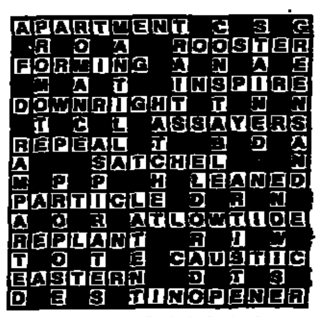
1 Negotiate a big rise (5,1,8)
9 Not much of a rhyme (8)
10 When a bird gets to a tree (5)
12 Against having ale mixed with the meat (4)
13 Aid this nun stumbling over a foreign language (10)
15 Use another match perhaps to rouse again (8)
16 Representation of body height not right (6)
18 Tearaway Jack? (6)
20 The vase I upset, it was holding the most (8)
23 Bird would, so to speak, eat sparingly and hesitantly (10)
24 Brother takes part in a sombre reflection (4)
26 Lamb-like, the Spanish boy (5)
27 Belief about revolutionary colour in French church (8)
28 Battery chargers? (5,9)

DOWN

2 Pick ace out of the bag (7)
3 Only one plant in the shrubby woodland? (4)
4 But to do this will bring an addition to the family (8)
5 Slovenly sort of nudity! (6)
6 Verb taken from passage I have concluded (10)
7 Fix firmly in one's mind while I'm going over the factory (7)
8 Prisoner's tale? (6,5)
11 Too full of humanity? (11)
14 Doesn't puff so much in close-fitting garment (10)
17 The man with me in the passage is emphatic (8)
19 What June is to May (7)
21 It hurts the listener (7)
22 Plant an accountant with American intelligence unit (6)
25 Kent pine (4)



SOLUTIONS

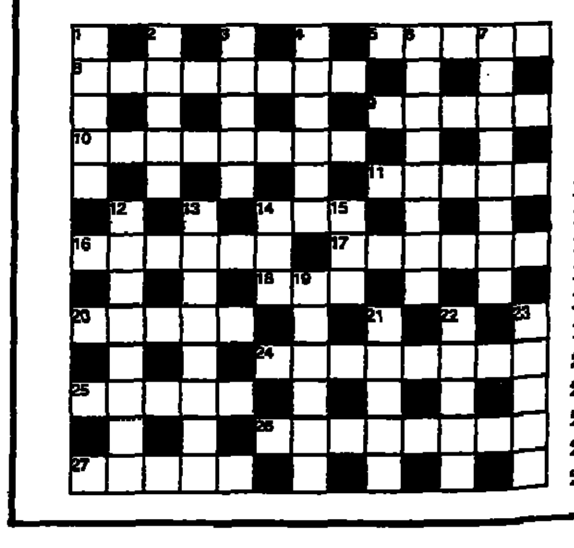


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Right, 4 Align, 10 Sheared, 11 Tango, 12 Adieu, 13 Espying, 15 Tire, 17 Alter, 19 River, 22 Open, 25 Lasagne, 27 Steer, 29 Prior, 30 Inexact, 31 Agree, 32 Steep.

DOWN: 2 Iceni, 3 Hirsute, 5 Let-up, 6 Genuine, 7 Essay, 8 Adder, 9 Rough, 14 Sera, 16 Iron, 18 Lasting, 20 Inspect, 21 Slope, 23 Peril, 24 Write, 26 Gorse, 28 Erase.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

5 25 sheets of paper (5)
8 Exercise (8)
9 Habitual (5)
10 Blushing (3-5)
11 Leather strap (5)
14 Suitable (3)
16 Tempestuous (6)
17 Rub off (6)
18 Indian rule (3)
20 Velvety (5)
24 Long breeches (8)
25 Song of David (5)
26 Ship (8)
27 Mammary gland (5)

DOWN

1 Glittering particle (5)
2 —— Arabia (5)
3 Rob (5)
4 Please (anag) (6)
6 Upper floor (8)
7 Musical composition (8)
12 Used (8)
13 Staunchly loyal (4-4)
14 Strathclyde resort (3)
15 —— Mahal (3)
19 Continent (6)
21 Canadian territory (5)
22 French novelist (5)
23 Seize forcibly (5)

Kibbutzim okay debt arrangement

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and JOSE ROSENFELD

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tsur and kibbutz movement representatives yesterday agreed to the Treasury's NIS 5.9 billion follow-up kibbutz debt arrangement, after six years of discussions and seven months of intensive negotiations.

The kibbutzim will contribute about NIS 2b. worth of land, while the banks and the government will write off NIS 3.9b. The Treasury says the government's will cover between 30% and 40% of the amount, or NIS 1.17b. to NIS 1.5b., and the banks will write off NIS 2.4b. and NIS 2.73b.

The Treasury will stretch the debt arrangement to 10 years to give the government enough time to sell the land and use the proceeds to cover the debt write-off without incurring budget expenditures. The debt of any particular kibbutz will be written off subject to the sale of its land.

However, the debt of kibbutzim located in the country's periphery and at the borders, whose land is of limited commercial value, will be written off during a five-year period by the government, the banks, and the wealthy kibbutzim.

The Treasury emphasized that the wealthier kibbutzim will finance the debt of the weaker kibbutzim by selling their land or providing cash. A debt-strapped kibbutz in the country's center will be required to sell 30% of its land, while financially sound kibbutzim will sell from 5% to 8% of their land.

Under the new land rezoning regulations, 27% of the land's value belongs to the kibbutz, and that money will go toward writing off their debt. The remaining 73% will be used by the government to cover the debt of kibbutzim at the periphery.

The proposal focuses primarily on 70 kibbutzim whose deficits are estimated at NIS 4.5b. The arrangement will write off an average of NIS 38 million per kibbutz or NIS 52,000 per individual. Kibbutzim are currently repaying NIS 50,000 a year per member.

It also deals with another 32 kibbutzim that cannot pay back their debts and will be required to adopt recovery programs, which, if successful, will entitle them to the same economic assistance given to the better-off kibbutzim. However, since the financial situation of these kibbutzim is particularly poor, the government can sell up to 100% of their land.

Despite demands by the kibbutzim for easier repayment terms and for government coverage of social welfare and pension payments, the arrangement does not deviate from the original proposal of the Swary Commission Report. Tomorrow, the cabinet will hold a special meeting to approve the arrangement.

"We didn't get everything we wanted but are happy with the arrangement," said Amiram Efrati, general secretary of Kibbutz Artzi.

Orr denies Rabin charge of 'stonewalling'

DAVID MAKOVSKY and BILL HUTMAN

KNESSET Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Ori Orr balked at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's accusations that the parliamentary panel has been impeding a law that would enable policemen and soldiers to move freely between those security services.

Orr said that his panel is receiving mixed signals on this law from Police Minister Moshe Shahal and IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, but did not elaborate.

Rabin said one reason why the law needed to be passed was because there is a slight drop-off in the number of Israeli soldiers serving in combat units. According to an official who briefed reporters, the number of Israeli soldiers serving in combat units has dropped from 32 percent to 30 percent. This could not be confirmed.

Police have based many of their plans on the extra manpower that allowing army conscripts to serve as policemen would give the nation's police force.

The delays in passage of the legislation that would allow soldiers to serve in the police force has held up those plans, according to police.

The Police Ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

However, ministry officials have made clear in the past that the legislation was essential. They said the extra manpower would be used to be beef up the force in Jerusalem, particularly in the Old City.

The additional policemen received from the IDF would also help police meet increased manpower needs to be created by the separation plan.

Hundreds of additional policemen will be needed for the checkpoints, patrols and other assignments connected with the separation plan, aimed to keep Palestinians from illegally entering the country.

Bibi moving Prisons Service to Ramle bit by bit

BILL HUTMAN

PRISONS Service Commissioner Arye Bibi has virtually shut his office in Jerusalem and spent some NIS 60,000 fixing up a new office in Ramle, despite Police Minister Shahal's commitment that the service would remain in the capital, according to Prisons Service sources.

Bibi has also moved his spokesman's office to Ramle, and plans soon to transfer the central communications unit to the town, where secondary offices have been maintained for years.

The move out of the capital began several years ago, when it sparked strong opposition on the grounds it was important for government agencies to remain in Jerusalem.

Upon taking office two years ago, Shahal vowed to then-mayor Teddy Kollek he would keep the Prisons Service and its several hundred workers in Jerusalem.

However, Bibi is continuing the move out of the capital, the sources say. Today, he only has a small office in Jerusalem, which he rarely uses.

For the entire month of April, Bibi is scheduled to be at the Prisons Service's Jerusalem headquarters, on Rehov Hahistadrut, only once, for a Pessah party.

The sources said the plan to move the central communications unit out of Jerusalem reflects the long-term aim of phasing out the Jerusalem headquarters. The unit keeps a 24-hour watch on the country's prisons.

In a meeting March 20, Bibi outlined the plan to move the unit to Ramle, saying it would save money and manpower.

Prisons Service spokesman Moshe Malul said a delay in the establishment of a new Jerusalem headquarters in the Atarot industrial zone in northern Jerusalem was the main reason behind moving some departments to Ramle.

The sources, however, said legal problems may hold up the building of a new headquarters indefinitely.

Bibi and many senior service officials favor having their offices in Ramle, because the town is close to their homes, the sources said.

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Aloni faults 'wild behavior' of Bezek staff as sanctions start

JUDY SIEGEL

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni halted all contacts with the Histadrut yesterday as a result of "wild behavior" by Bezek workers. She said they called her office and that of the ministry's director-general, using "gutter language" and threatening to "blow up" their homes and harm them and other ministry personnel.

Aloni declared she would "not work under threats and extortion," and that until she received an apology from the workers the ministry would "continue to carry out its responsibilities except dealing with the Histadrut."

Bezek workers yesterday resumed sanctions that they had applied one week in March, to protest against the government's decision to break the company's monopoly in overseas dialing services. Technicians refused to repair broken phone lines in most of the country, except for the south. Some 1,500 phone lines go dead on an average day.

Histadrut trade union chief Amir Peretz told Bezek management that the sanctions are being carried out without Histadrut support, although previous sanctions did receive the Histadrut's backing. Peretz called on Bezek workers to return to work.

No comment was available from union spokesmen yesterday, but in the past they have claimed that 5,000 Bezek workers will lose their jobs if a competing company provides overseas dialing services.

Philippine Ambassador asks why Filipino workers held at airport

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Philippine Ambassador to Israel, Rosalinda de Perio-Santos, has expressed concern over the detention of a group of Filipino workers at Ben-Gurion Airport on Sunday.

The workers, who arrived via Cairo on Sunday morning, were questioned for five-and-a-half hours at the airport despite the fact that they had been issued visas, the head of the recruiting company which brought them said yesterday. He said the Interior Ministry was apparently wary lest they find other jobs here – or Israeli wives.

"We applied to the Israeli Embassy in Manila for visas for 500 construction workers. After six months, on the authorization of the Foreign and Interior Ministries, the embassy issued visas to 15 workers," Jaime Saraga, president of the United Airport Manpower and General Services company said.

He said he had been surprised to learn that the visas were only for a two-week stay, but was told the Interior Ministry would adjust them after arrival in Israel.

"Israel and the Philippines have waived the need for [tourist] visas but we plan to ask our government to reconsider this," Saraga said. "The arrangement must be reciprocal. These are legal workers. We brought them here in association with two Israeli manpower companies, Kineton and Enosh. The Filipinos have expertise and there are about one million working in the Middle East."

Saraga said the Philippine workers felt discriminated against, in light of the import of construction workers from other countries like Romania and Thailand. Nevertheless, they had appeared for work as arranged yesterday.

The Interior Ministry spokesperson was not available for comment.

Egypt's decision to boycott controllers' meeting backfires

HAIM SHAPIRO

EGYPT'S decision to boycott last week's international conference of air traffic controllers in Jerusalem apparently has backfired.

The international body decided not to hold its next year's meeting in Cairo.

According to Alexander Oppenheim, the Israeli head of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers Associations (IFATCA) legal committee, the body had decided last year that its next year's meeting would be in Cairo.

However, he said, each year the holders of the coming year's conference present their plans. Instead, the Egyptians sent only partial plans with their Tunisian colleagues.

In the end, the conference decided that next year they would meet in Tunisia.

The Egyptian absence apparently also affected the proposed re-election of Abdul Karimi as vice president of the organization for Africa and the Middle East. In his place, Oliver Fararimi of Zimbabwe was elected.

A delegate from Zimbabwe also replaced an Egyptian delegate onthe legal committee, Oppenheim added.

Finally, the organization gave the Egyptians until May to pay their debt or face suspension.

Oppenheim noted, however, that the Egyptians are not the only national organization in this position.

Private eyes to protest seizure of CDs

THE ASSOCIATION of Investigation Offices in Israel plans to protest to the justice and police ministers over the seizure last week of database CDs containing information on the country's citizens from investigators and others who had purchased them.

Last week, acting on orders of the National Fraud Squad, police raided some 350 private investigation, lawyers' and accountants' offices, banks and daily newspapers who had bought the discs from Reuven Millman, who was arrested some two months ago for selling the discs. "According to what we have been told, information on the database was acquired legally and does not represent a violation of privacy," said association chairman Aharon Sivan yesterday. The police spokesman rejected the association's claims.

Raine Marcus

هكذا من الأصل